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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE Indian news this time differs little from that which we have often received lately. A series of detached engagements—a flight of the rebels—Roberts victorious in one place—Napier in another—such is the regular course of things. We conquer—but there seems no end of conquering necessary. It is like extinguishing a capricious fire, which breaks out in one place when subdued in another. And so it is likely to be for months. It may be considered settled that there will be no power to dispute the empire with us; that wherever we fight a battle we shall win it; and that we shall reduce to submission the last revolted sepoy who is now skulking in a jungle with his belt full of rupees. But it is equally clear that we shall be longer about the job than we once thought, and that in every way it will prove a costly one.

Perhaps the best news of the mail is that the abortive little Sikh disturbance turned out a failure. With the Sikhs against us, our prospects would be most serious. But it is the old story—the secret of all our conquests there—every race that hates us hates some other race worse. And this, which explains, also justifies our rule. Without us, they would destroy each other; and we tame them (barring such outbreaks as this mutiny) into a kind of Happy Family.

The Indian public was expecting with curiosity the proclamation which should inaugurate the direct rule of the Crown. We trust that it will not be a Napoleonic bulletin of the kind which some Indian papers sigh for—nor have we the least fear that it will. Our policy is to be just what a stagey dealer with Orientals would not be—calm, grave, sober, and European. To speak contemptuously of the past *régime*, or to speak of the Royal Government according to Eastern notions of royalty, would be mere windy humbug. We are strong because we are not like the natives, and we should keep our position. But this doctrine does not involve the necessity of attempting to Anglicise them, and we should be glad to see an open declaration that it will be our study to respect their usages and traditions. As for the missions, they must do their own work themselves. Government as Government is not bound to proselytise, though it is bound to respect and protect those who do. Naturally, there will be renewed energy in the work of conversion after peace has been restored, and the object is a pious one. But, we repeat, we must not try to force doctrine down the people's throats;

and it is to be hoped that nothing in the proclamation will hint at any such intention.

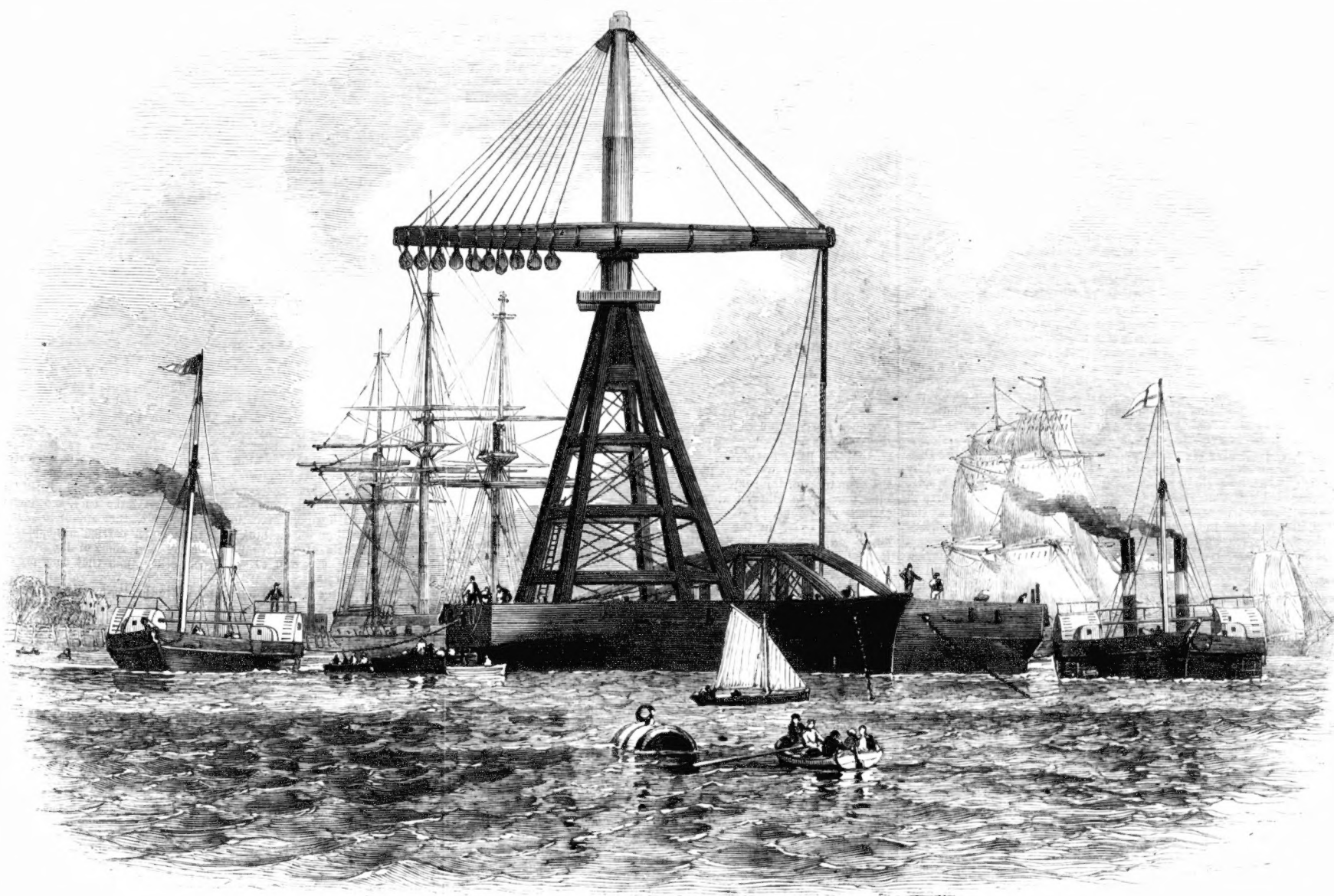
If India be, on the whole, a less absorbing topic than might have been expected—if it be felt that with Stanley at home and great forces in the country itself—things are likely to settle down better than was once thought, where shall we look for a topic of more promise? Britain herself is in a dull state—elderly Whig gentlemen vainly endeavouring to frighten her, meanwhile, on the subject of “democracy.” She knows their “little game,” however—which is the old one of making Reform a Whig monopoly. So, what with indifference to them, and general good nature, Britain was never less politically excited than just now. Whether, as the winter comes on, people will stir themselves more, we do not know, but at present there is no sign of it. We have to turn our eyes to the Continent, if we would seek anything political to talk about.

And there, to be sure, we may observe movements of considerable significance. Louis Napoleon's attitude towards Austria has had the effect of producing a good deal of excitement in Italy, and the Villafranca cession to Russia, also, is easily magnified by a people to whom excitement is the very breath of life. We hope that we shall not see a repetition of those delusions by which Italy has been so often betrayed. What France would ever do for her except help to divide her as a spoil, we cannot conceive; nor, when we consider her internal divisions, have we much faith in her doing anything for herself. But the apparent Machiavelism of Napoleon is shallower than it looks. His present inclination to Russia, which has indirectly caused the agitation above-mentioned, means nothing but that he wants the recognition of one more potentate for the dignity of his dynasty. Russia has been the latest Power to enter into courtesies with him, and everybody knows that under the late Czar, England, if she had chosen, might have divided with her everything worth dividing on the coasts of the Mediterranean. Those offers were rejected, and Napoleon welcomed to our alliance instead, the which having served his purpose, he has sought that of Russia to give him farther *prestige*. We need not, however, see in it anything more formidable than we have hinted, viz., a friendliness calculated to impress the French people with their Emperor's universal importance. We are well able to take care of ourselves; and need not disturb ourselves about those intrigues—whether political, dynastic, or personal—which set

fluttering the hearts of the despot-ridden millions of the south. But the Emperor of Russia has a task on his hands which will long prevent the probability of his joining anybody for the disturbance of the peace of Europe. The emancipation of the serfs is the work of a generation, and to do him justice, he is setting about like a man. He has been calling together the nobles of various provinces, and urging on them co-operation in the great work; and though there is a mighty difference between an occasional assembly of nobles and a “Parliament,” yet one may breed the other in Russia, as, in fact, it originally did among ourselves. What makes the development of Russia peculiar, is that it has to go on in the presence, so to speak, of nations that have ripened long before her. When we grew out of serfage, we did so without having a batch of countries beside us thoroughly up to the “Rights of Man,” and always preaching them! And Russia's task is proportionately more difficult. We need not say that, though resolutely opposed to her ambition, we are quite friendly to her improvement, and that we wish her well through the coming trial for the sake of humanity itself. Nor have we any apprehension that it will be her interest to join France in any object really antagonistic to our national greatness.

So much for the chief political question of the day. We believe that half the mischief in Europe is caused by false alarms, and though it is no business of ours to mend our neighbours' institutions, we cannot help wishing that they had a rational newspaper or two, here and there. They would then get their eyes opened to those turnip-lantern bugbears which are only awful to those who cannot handle them, but must observe them in silence and from afar.

Domestic questions are few. The Weedon commission has exhibited a shameful amount of mismanagement, though not more, perhaps, than might have been expected. It cannot end here. The Bishop of Oxford has had to speak out about confession, and has disclaimed all that makes the practice a source of power to priests or of suspicion to the public; so that the Boyne Hill affair (contemptible as it was in many aspects) has not happened in vain. Lord Derby has sold “Toxophilite,” too, which our readers will laugh at us for stating so gravely, for whose business is it? Only it was made a quasi-political point of some time since, with that courteous generosity which marks a certain class of political personages.



THE NEW FLOATING DERRICK.

LAUNCH OF A MONSTER FLOATING DERRICK.

For several months past those whom business or pleasure may have led to pass up and down the below-bridge portion of the Thames, must have remarked the gradual looming up of a very peculiar structure near the Trinity-house Wharf, at the entrance of Bow Creek. The speculations rife among 'long shore men' as to its object form not the least interesting feature of its remarkable history. While its lofty stem gradually rose high in air, towering above every surrounding object, one hypothesis assigned to it the reputation of being some Pharos of novel construction, which purported to solve the important question whether, instead of lighthouses being usually placed on land, where the mariner's danger terminates, they should not rather be moored out at sea in those shoal soundings where the danger really begins. But when the gigantic cross-tree, or yard, was added, it was supposed by many persons to be a catapulta that would "knock a Sebastopol or a Cherbourg to flinders."

Having noted these speculations as to what it is not, we will now explain what really is the monster marine machine whose launch recently attracted a vast assemblage of persons to the premises of the Thames Iron Works and Ship-building Company, at Orchard-yard, Blackwall. The name bestowed by the American inventor on this remarkable structure, is "The Patent Boom Derrick."

Premising that all the American Derricks, have, naturally enough, been built of wood, in a timber country, whose forests are inexhaustible, we will now give the dimensions, and endeavour to explain the principles which enter into the construction of the wrought-iron Floating Derrick, illustrated on our first page. The "scow," or vessel on which the Derrick is placed, and into which its standards are built, is of a rhomboidal form amidships, for a length of about 95 feet, tapering off, both toward stem and stern, in the shape of two slightly waved-line wedges; so that she is built sharp fore and aft, and carries a rudder at each end, like some of the iron steamboats which ply above bridge. The length over all of the vessel is 257 feet, and her breadth amidships, up to where the tapering-off lines begin, is 90 feet on deck, and 84 feet at the bottom, which is perfectly flat.

This enormous pontoon or hull, which is twelve feet wider than the *Great Eastern*, is divided throughout her length by an elliptical truss or girder, weighing nearly seventy tons, having a span which approximates to that of the centre arch of Southwark Bridge, and a height of thirty feet. Two smaller arch trusses are placed diagonally across the hull, intersecting the main arch through its centre, and through each other almost at the same point. This arrangement becomes what (to use an osteological illustration) may be termed the vertebrae of the hull, upon which the ribs are formed by means of the bottom and the side-angled irons. The internal capacity of the hull is again subdivided into upwards of eighty cells, each about fourteen feet square. There is a bifid object in this arrangement: firstly, to strengthen the general construction of the hull; and secondly, to form water-tight compartments throughout one of its sides, for the purpose of admitting water-ballast, to serve when raising a vessel as a counterpoise to the other, into which the Derrick proper, or lifting machine, is built. Now, why this machine should be called a Derrick may naturally have puzzled the non-nautical reader, and therefore it is necessary to explain that the word, which is a synonyme for the "Tyburn-tree," has been said to owe its derivation to one Derrick, who too frequently fulfilled in the 17th century those functions which happily, in the 19th, Calcraft is seldom required to perform. On board ship those temporary cranes formed for unloading and general hoisting purposes, by lashing one spar to another, gibbet fashion, are called Derricks; but now to describe the particular Boom Derrick in question, and wherein it differs from all others.

In an ordinary crane or Derrick the "jib" or "boom" which sustains the weight projects wholly from one side of a standard or support, and requires countervailing weight or resistance to prevent the supports being dragged away by the weight which is being raised; but in the Patent Derrick the boom is extended and affixed to both sides of the standard, or "king post," as it is somewhat strangely termed by our republican cousins. This arrangement admits of such acquisition and distribution of the acquired strain as the ordinary crane does not command, and this difference constitutes one of the principal features of the invention. The "king post" rests on the upper part of a huge, hollow cone, formed of standards, placed at the requisite points and firmly secured together by cross-beams and diagonal ties. On the top of this structure is placed a massive bearing with a concave groove corresponding to the circumference of the "king post," which, having both back and front booms affixed to it, and being shod with an inverted or convex groove, rests upon the bearing just mentioned, and is enabled to revolve freely upon a number of steel balls placed between the two grooves by what is known as ball and socket action. The end of the "boom" opposite to that employed in lifting is connected by several travelling "brace-rods" of great strength with the base of a circular framework of iron, and the end of these rods being provided with friction-wheels, admit of the weight being moved within the range of a circle, the radius of which is one-half the length of the "boom." When required to be put into use for raising a sunken ship, the lifting-boom projects over that side of the "scow" or vessel upon which it is erected, and is provided with ten sets of purchase-blocks, each of which possesses a hoisting power of 100 tons. A chain passes over each of these blocks, and is led down the inside of the hollow "king post," which is seven feet in diameter at the height of nearly 100 feet above the deck, and thence to one of a series of ten powerful "crabs," which are placed on the side of the deck opposite to that of the hoisting boom. An aggregate power of 1,000 tons is thus made available upon a sunken ship or other object. In raising a sunken vessel, water is admitted into those compartments of the "scow" which are on the side opposite to that on which the hoisting takes place, thus providing a counterbalance to the accumulating dead weight. From its peculiar construction, the "scow" has a very light draught of water, not exceeding 30 inches. When launched, it was necessary to pump 300 tons of water into the hull to keep it sufficiently steady under the weight of its top-gearing; but in raising a vessel, the accumulation of strain will, as such vessel approaches to the surface of the water, force the hull down many feet. Within the hold, are placed two steam-engines for propelling the vessel, and two others for working the Derrick's gear for raising the ships. The huge machine will be moved by means of a revolving chain passing over two wheels placed on each side, and provided with moveable floats. This chain and its floats revolve in a sort of channel or sewer, nearly 90 feet in length, protected by the outer iron plates of the vessel's side, and which dip below the surface of the water. The Floating Derrick will carry no sails.

It is on the basis of the enormous "scow" or hull that the Derrick proper, or hoisting apparatus, is fixed. It comprises five triangular-shaped iron legs, formed of inch-and-a-quarter plates of iron, which support, at a height of 50 feet, the enormous hoisting "boom." This boom is 120 feet in length, and its broadest part 30 feet in breadth. It is formed of thick plates of iron riveted together, and which, seen from below, appears as though one of the Thames steamers had been taken up bodily and placed on the towering hollow cone structure. Through a hole in its centre (this forming the pivot upon which the boom turns) is the great "king post," in the interior of which a game of whist might be conveniently played. The height of the post above the "boom" is 60 feet, and it is surmounted at the top by a huge iron cap weighing 25 tons, to which are attached the chains supporting both ends of the "boom." The total height from the deck to the top of the "king post" is 130 feet. The following are the particulars of the power, dimensions, and weight of the various parts of this extraordinary machine:—The power is—hoisting capacity above the surface of the water, 1,000 tons; gear for working, 10 sets of crabs, independent of each other, worked by two oscillating engines of 30 nominal horse-power each; propelling power, two pair of oscillating engines of 160 horse-power each pair, all fitted with Barran's patent cup-surface boilers. The weight of the scow or hull (without Derrick) is 750 tons; of the Derrick, including legs, boom, "king-post," casting, and rods, 250 tons; making a total weight of scow and Derrick, with propelling or hoisting machinery,

about 1,200 tons. The dimensions are—length over all 257 feet, breadth 90, depth 14, height from deck to boom 80, ditto of "king-post" above boom 50, radius of boom 60. This machine is capable of depositing its load anywhere within a circle whose diameter is 120 feet. The measurement of the vessel is 5,000 tons, and the entire cost about £40,000.

It was natural that the launch of such an extraordinary specimen of naval architecture should excite unusual curiosity. From its peculiar structure it was necessary to launch it broadside on, in the same manner as the *Great Eastern*, and there were not a few who, remembering the difficulties against which Brunel had to contend, ventured to hint at a possible mischance in the present case. Practical shipwrights like Mr. Piddington, are not, however, to be daunted, and with the punctuality of an express train on a well-arranged railway, the huge machine slid into the water. The monster "scow," rested upon three cradles, supported by an equal number of "ways," which extended down to low-water mark.

The hand of Mrs. Thomas Maudslay performed the usual ceremony of breaking the bottle of wine on the bows of the vessel, which received the name of *Patent Derrick No. 1*. Immediately the signal was given, the dog shores were knocked away, and in a few minutes, with the aid of one seventy-ton hydraulic, four ten-ton jacks, and two "jacks in the box" of fifty tons aggregate power, the unwieldy mass drove before it, to the opposite side of Bow Creek, an immense wave of water, which lifted several small boats on to the dry land, and swamped one or two others. Three steam-tugs which were in attendance then took the vessel in hand, and towed her to her temporary moorings off Blackwall Pier, where she has been viewed by many thousand people during the past week. The Floating Derrick will, so soon as her engines are completely adjusted and she is ready for operation, be placed under the command of Captain Coppin, an officer who has had very considerable experience in dealing with wrecks.

The laudable object which the inventor, Mr. Bishop his coadjutor, Mr. Vaughan, and the gentlemen composing the Patent Derrick Company, seek to accomplish by means of the monster apparatus, is the raising and saving of vessels sunk and wrecked upon our coasts. Property of the value of £2,000,000 is lost upon our coasts annually. Now beyond the rare instances in which a vessel wrecked off the mouth of a river, or at the entrance of a harbour, is raised chiefly through tidal influence; and beyond the piecemeal recovery, by the expensive process of diving, of portions of cargoes sunk in shallow soundings, that no efficient means of salvage exists may clearly be seen by a moment's glance at the "Wreck Chart of the British Isles for 1857," which is so thickly studded with stars indicating the position and nature of the wrecks, as to transform the outline of our "sea-girt isle" into a huge watery constellation.

It remains to show by the antecedents of the Patent Floating Derrick, that it provides against this state of things: we give two instances of its capabilities. When the *Ericsson* calorific ship of 3,300 tons (which was to effect, by means of heated air, a revolution in motive power) was sunk off the coast of New Jersey on her trial trip, a contracting party essayed to raise her by means of steam pumps. Six of these were applied ineffectually during a period exceeding a month, when a Floating Derrick, belonging to the New York Company, was brought to operate upon the sunken vessel, recovered her, and, aided by two tug-boats, placed her on shore for repair, within 24 hours after the Derrick had commenced action.

The second instance of the application of the Derrick is given in the "New York Express," from which we quote textually:—"The wonderful power and usefulness of this great machine have been again successfully tested. It is now, as we write, passing the Battery, with the steamer *Splendid* hanging in the chains suspended from the boom of the Derrick. The *Splendid* is in length 176 feet. She was sunk opposite West Point, on the Hudson River, by a barge running into her at night, and knocking a hole in her bottom. The Derrick raised her in about an hour after the chains were placed; and with the aid of two tug-boats, the steamer and Derrick were towed to this city."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE Emperor arrived at the camp at Châlons on Saturday evening. He was received with vociferous demonstrations of loyalty by the troops. Prince Napoleon has returned from Warsaw. All sorts of rumours are afloat as to the object and effect of his visit to the Czar; the general impression is that he was charged to solicit the appearance of his Majesty of Russia at the French court.

The Plenipotentiaries of the five great Powers, and of Sardinia and Turkey, met on Saturday at the Foreign Office, and proceeded to exchange the ratifications of the convention concluded at Paris on the 19th of August last, relative to the constitution of the Danubian Principalities.

Two French ships of war have, it is said, left Toulon to make a hostile demonstration in the Tagus against the King of Portugal, on account of the refusal of the Portuguese Government to pay an indemnity for the seizure of a Nantes merchantman, the *George Charles*, by the authorities of Mozambique. Two first-class ships, the *Danavert* and the *Austerlitz*, did leave Toulon, on September the 26th, for an unknown destination.

Contrary to expectation, the "Moniteur" of Saturday morning contained a decree prolonging till September, 1859, the suspension of the corn-laws in France. Grain will, therefore, continue to be admitted into that country as hitherto. It was expected that the regular law—the sliding-scale system—would have been resumed, but that happily turns out to be erroneous.

SPAIN.

THE O'Donnell Government granted to the Spanish so-called Progressista party permission to hold an electoral meeting in Madrid, but the boon has not been extended to the Democratic party. The reason is, that this party has of late been given to threatening language against the Court, and to praises of physical force as the best means to redress the grievances of the people. The conclusion is that if language of this kind were to be allowed at public meetings in Madrid, it would be actually dangerous.

A Royal order in the "Gazette" directs that the Cuban custom-house authorities shall admit, duty free, the cotton seed which the English Government has remitted to her Britannic Majesty's consular general for the purpose of trying the cultivation of the cotton plant in the Island of Cuba. The authorities are directed to watch the trial, and to report fully thereon to the Home Government.

PRUSSIA.

THE Regency question is still much agitated in Prussia, and many contradictory reports are afloat. There seems to be no doubt, however, that the installation of the Prince of Prussia as regent, uncontrolled, is a settled thing; and that in a few days an official announcement of the change will be made. The Prince is said to contemplate signalling his accession to power by an act that will make him highly popular. The duty on salt, which is especially oppressive on the rural population, will be entirely suppressed.

The Prince of Prussia has returned from Warsaw.

RUSSIA.

THE Czar's stay at Warsaw, where he arrived on the 24th ult., was very short. It was here that he received the Prince of Prussia, the Prince Napoleon, and other royal visitors. The Emperor's attention is largely occupied upon his emancipation scheme, which (as will be seen by an article in another place) he seems resolved to carry off, spite of the opposition with which it is met by the nobles of some "governments." He has spoken very plainly on the subject; and, on his journey, would not accept any *fête* proposed by the nobility in the governments where they have shown themselves hostile to the measure.

ITALY.

THE Italian papers state that the garrison of Rome is to be powerfully reinforced, but the French aver that no more troops will be sent to the capital of the Papal States than are necessary to fill up the gaps caused by illness, "and by the draughting of men to Civita Vecchia to assist in the construction of the fortifications which are being made there."

More street fights have taken place between the Papal soldiers, especially the dragoons, and the French garrison at Rome. It seems that the guilt lies with the French, who are described as having been rather drunken.

A petition, signed by about 1,000 of the principal inhabitants of Bologna, has been presented to the Cardinal Legate, asking the Pontifical Government to devise some means to guarantee security to persons and property, as the practice of paying a voluntary contribution to bandit chiefs has only increased their number and audacity.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

LORD STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE has arrived at Constantinople. He was immediately visited by Sir Henry Bulwer, and soon afterwards waited on the Grand Vizier. Much cordiality was manifested on both sides, we are told. At the close of the interview, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe asked that the Sultan might be solicited to appoint a day upon which he (the ambassador) "could present the letter of his sovereign in an imperial audience." "We believe that the 26th of September was fixed. On the 23rd, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe received a deputation of the British residents at Constantinople. In thanking them for the compliment paid him, he said that his stay in Constantinople would be but of short duration, and then went on to speak in praise of his successor.

Turkey having neglected to send the money to pay the troops at Tripoli, a battalion whose pay was in arrear revolted, and made an attempt to bring over the other troops. The mutineers were put in iron. While these events were taking place, the Europeans sought refuge at their respective consulates. The Governor, after order was re-established, demanded reinforcements.

Fresh troubles are reported to threaten at Jeddah, and in an Italian journal we read that "the *Yemen*, a steamer belonging to the house of Pastre, somewhere on the coast of Abyssinia, took on board a number of pilgrims. When the steamer was out at sea, these fanatics attacked the crew, and mastered them. At a fortunate moment an English steamer appeared in sight, and before the massacre which was intended could be begun, the crew was relieved from its perilous position."

A complete ministerial revolution has taken place in Persia. The Vizier Mirza, who has been minister for the last seven years, has been arrested with his two sons, and the restitution of several millions is required from them: these measures have caused universal satisfaction. The Shah, it is said, has discovered the real cause of the late war with England, and therefore has dismissed the Vizier. This seems to mean that he has discovered the Vizier to have been bribed by Russia to advise those steps which brought on the war. There is now to be a regular Persian Ministry, without a Vizier, consisting of five, among whom are Feruk-Khan, the late ambassador, and a Frenchman. The situation of affairs in Persia had become deplorable. The province of Azerbidjan had revolted, that of Astertban was invaded by the Turcomans, who had destroyed forty villages, and carried off the inhabitants into slavery. A famine raged in Khorasan, and Herat was surrounded by various hostile tribes.

THE PRINCIPALITIES.

ACCORDING to a letter from Bucharest, "the new constitution has produced profound consternation in the Principalities. It makes us go backward. We have no longer any separate political existence; we are in that respect subject to the Ottoman Porte, absolutely, like the rayas who reside in the Turkish empire." In support of this allegation, the letter contends that by the convention Moldavia and Wallachia lose the right of making peace and war, and must leave almost exclusively to Turkey the care of protecting their interests, and even their existence. It says that the protection of the Turks is not of a nature to re-assure them, since the Turks have allowed Bukovina to be separated from the Provinces by the Austrians, and Bessarabia by the Russians. In the second place, the constitution diminishes the independence of the Roumans, by depriving the hospodars of the privilege they have always enjoyed, and which the Porte has never contested, of corresponding directly with foreign Powers. The Moldo-Wallachians fear besides that, in spite of the title of "United Principalities" given to their country, the division of power between the two hospodars will be a cause of incessant rivalry; and, finally, it says that they complain of the electoral law, which fixes the property qualification so high that all the agricultural population will not be able to possess the franchise.

AMERICA.

THE steam-frigate *Niagara* was to sail on the 21st from Charleston for Africa with the slaves captured on board the brig *Echo*. The trial of Townsend, the master of the *Echo*, commenced in Boston on the 21st. The legal questions involved in this trial were regarded as of great importance. The questions—whether the carrying of slaves on the high seas from Africa to a slaveholding country like Cuba is piracy; whether it is piracy under any act of Congress or treaty; if the federal constitution recognises the carrying of slaves as piracy; and if any act of Congress or treaty can make that piracy which the constitution does not recognise as such—are all involved. It was understood that Townsend would dispute the jurisdiction of the court, claiming that he should be tried at Key West, and not at Boston. He would also defend himself on the plea that he was a passenger, and not master of the brig.

General Walker sailed from New York on the 20th for Aspinall. "It is reported that Walker will not go to Nicaragua by way of San Juan del Sur, nor by Realejo, as his disembarkation might possibly be impeded by the American or British vessels of war; but he is to land at a small port about fifteen miles south of Realejo, from which a passable cart-road leads to Leon." At Panama the General was to meet a considerable number of filibusters, already on their way. Stores and ammunition had been despatched in advance.

Latest advices from Utah represent the Indians as peaceable. Brigham Young had to hide himself from the Mormons, who were very much incensed against him owing to a belief that he had made certain unpalatable revelations concerning his business transactions with the Saints. The Mormons were returning to Salt Lake City, and resuming their usual business avocations. However, they appear to be in a wretched condition for clothing, and the women particularly appear to suffer. The wife of Governor Cumming and some of the wives of Brigham Young are said to visit each other; and that they are on quite sociable terms.

In respect to the Atlantic telegraph cable the "New York Herald" says:—"There is a general want of confidence in the public mind, and there are very few who do not believe that it is either broken or absolutely useless for the transmission of messages."

The deaths from yellow fever in New Orleans were still on the increase. For the thirty hours ending noon on the 20th, they numbered 107.

THE FRENCH IN THE ADRIATIC.—A contemporary says: "It has been announced erroneously that the French and Russian force was about to be withdrawn from the Adriatic. The Algerians is ordered home to France, but will be replaced by another French vessel of equal force. Both France and Russia have resolved on not withdrawing their ships from the coast of Albania till after the definitive settlement of the Montenegrin question."

MURDER OF AN ENGLISH LADY AT JERUSALEM.—"I have just been informed," says a correspondent of the "Daily News," "that a lady, whom I knew some years since in Jerusalem, has been most brutally murdered. It is said that her body was discovered on the road leading from Jerusalem to an estate belonging to the English consul, James Finn, Esq., at whose residence she had been staying. Those of your readers who may have visited the Holy City will remember Miss Creasy. I believe I am fully justified in saying that a more inoffensive, virtuous, and kind-hearted creature could not be, and am utterly at a loss to conceive what could have caused such a dreadful catastrophe."

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

A SURVEY of the state of affairs in India shows plainly enough many elements of resistance to the immediate restoration of peace and tranquillity. The field over which the disturbances extend is still wide, and there are few signs to lead us to suppose that disaffection will be speedily subdued.

But to jot down the newest and most prominent features of the rebellion.

DEFEAT OF THE REBELS AT KOTARAH.

General Roberts's force defeated the rebels on the 14th of August, at a place called Kotarah, about twenty-eight miles north-east of Oodeypore. The rebels, after a series of attempts to proceed northwards towards Jeypore, at length were driven down west of Tonk and on to the spurs of the Aravalli range, the lower crests of which run into the Meywar Valley, near Oodeypore. Headed near the Chutterbhooj Pass by the grenadiers from Guzerat, and other troops hastily assembled, the rebels turned again and made for the Chumbul, between Neemuch and Mhow. Roberts's force, however, was at their heels, and before they could make good their escape they were met at Nathdwara. How Roberts's force got so near them is a wonder. He left Nusseerabad early in the first days of August, and on the 4th reached Champaner. The rebels were then flying on the road to Neemuch, and they were caught up midway between the two places at Saugor. Darkness was coming on when they were seen dispersed in three columns, and very numerous, supported by large bodies of cavalry and the four brass guns recently captured at Tonk, and separated from our force by a broad stream. They were immediately attacked with the whole of the force then at the General's disposal, namely, three guns (Brown's battery), her Majesty's 83rd, a wing of the 13th Bombay Native Infantry, and a company of Native Sappers. The attack was well directed. Two companies of the 83rd, under Major Austen, crossed the river and occupied a village on the enemy's right, whilst the main body of our force crossed directly in front, under the protection of Brown's guns. The enemy made no stand, but as usual ran, and under cover of the darkness made their escape, with a loss of about fifty men only. Holmes' brigade, with the cavalry, being absent, no pursuit could then be organised, and the troops encamped for the night. On the 9th a halt was made to enable Major Holmes to join, and this desirable object having been attained, the whole force moved off on the 10th, and made forced marches daily till they reached the neighbourhood of Kotarah. The enemy, as will be seen by this movement, had left the Neemuch road, and were in full flight towards Guzerat. They got to the mouth of the Chutterbhooj Pass, and there found their advance westward impeded. They turned just as Roberts's force reached Nathdwara, and encamped at Kotarah, six miles distant, where they were attacked on the morning of the 14th of August. Here again they had all the advantage of good positions. They had the Bussas river before them, and high ground of a precipitous character to hold to. But they made no use of these advantages. Whilst our artillery unlimbered to the front, and thundered at them across the stream, the infantry was led over, and took them in flank. The 8th Hussars and Lancers supporting the Horse Artillery charged into the midst of them, and a headlong pursuit ensued, during which the four brass guns from Tonk were taken, 500 or 600 men killed, and the rest dispersed, with the loss on our side of the sergeant-major of the 8th Hussars and a sepoy of the 12th Native Infantry killed, and fifteen wounded. The treasure under Tantia Topce's charge was not taken, as the rebels took care to send it away before the action in charge of 1,200 men. The total loss of the enemy is estimated at 1,000 men. It was useless for General Roberts to follow. He knew that the Chumbul was watched, and he left the care of further pursuit to the Mhow and Neemuch columns, returning leisurely back to Nusseerabad.

NAPIER'S VICTORY.

Colonel Smith's brigade had been some time before Powrie, and had endeavoured in vain to obtain an unconditional surrender; it became necessary to besiege the stronghold, and take it by regular approaches. For this a siege train was necessary; and accordingly guns of heavy metal were sent from Gwalior, with the force under Brigadier-General Napier. This addition to Smith's brigade, consisting of 100 of her Majesty's 86th, 200 of the 25th Bombay Native Infantry, some of Mead's Horse, three field guns, and some foot artillery and engineers, made the force at Powrie tolerably imposing. Still it was not sufficiently numerous to enable the Generals to surround the place; and whilst batteries were being erected on one side, a difficult piece of ground on the other, intersected by deep ravines and covered with heavy jungle, remained open for the retreat of the enemy. On the 20th of August the whole force took up a concentrated position near the fort; mortars were placed in position, and a vigorous shelling was kept up on the works. A breaching battery was likewise commenced, within 300 yards of the walls, the 95th, with their Enfields, keeping up a galling fire at 400 yards on the besieged wherever they showed themselves. The enemy replied actively enough with musketry and round shot, but with uncertain aim.

The breaching battery was complete on the morning of the 22nd, but became useless, for in the night the rebels had fled through the ravines and jungle, taking with them two guns. Colonel Smith's brigade immediately started in pursuit, when it was known that the rebels had fled S.W. to Rajghur, half way between Indore and Powrie. After a march of twenty-two miles through thick jungle during the day, the force came up with the enemy's encamping, which had just been evacuated. Their retreat had been so precipitate that the two guns were abandoned, and were found by Brigadier Smith in a tank. The force, unable to track the fugitives through an almost trackless jungle, returned to Powrie on the 23rd. General Napier, however, not despairing of catching some of the rebels, sent out another force, comprising part of the 10th and 25th Bombay Native Infantry, 200 European infantry of the 86th and 95th, and four field guns, part of Mead's Horse. These left Powrie by forced marches on the 27th of August. At Powrie all the fort guns, seventeen in number, were destroyed, and part of the strongest side of the works was dismantled and blown up, and so rests the campaign in that part of Central India.

SUCCESS AT MYNAPORE.

There have been expeditions, however, from Jhansi in the direction of Goona, which were attended with a considerable amount of success. Towards the end of August two columns were sent out from the scene of Sir Hugh Rose's triumphs, one of them to Mynapore. This column consisted of detachments from the 3rd Europeans and 4th Bombay Native Infantry, with two guns of the Bhopaul contingent, and fifty 3rd Light Cavalry, under Captain Montevir, of the 24th Bombay Native Infantry. The force was divided, and the 24th, with the cavalry, had the good fortune to fall in with the enemy, and kill a number of them, near Mynapore, before the others came up. The second column went out westward, towards Goona, under the command of Colonel Liddell, but had not, up to the latest dates, met the enemy.

THE HUNT IN OUDE.

In Oude, the hunt after rebels has been equally vigorous. Sir Hope Grant, having relieved Fyzabad on the 6th of August, marched to Sultanpore, where lay 18,000 of the enemy, under Bane Madho and other chiefs. He occupied the right portion or cantonment without opposition, and subsequently crossed the Goomtee, driving the main body of rebels up the country to the north-east, whilst some descended the stream, and threatened to cross into Shahabad and Behar. Several steamers, however, have been sent from Dinapore up to Bulleah, to stop the passage of the Ganges, and all boats that could be found have been destroyed.

The following account of a plucky affair in the vicinity of Lucknow will show that the honours granted to Mr. Kavanagh have not been bestowed in vain. He had been selected by the chief commissioner for the civil charge of the district of Muhiabad, the town being protected by a military police regiment and eighty sowars under Captain J. Dawson and Lieutenant French, of the 53rd Regiment. On Mr. Kavanagh's arrival he pushed out a police station nine miles further west,

but the Sundeela insurgents came down on the 30th of July 1,500 strong, with two guns, and surrounded the twenty police, who, aided by three lumberjacks and forty zemindars, had thrown themselves into a fortified house, which served as a thannah, or police-station. The attack began at nine a.m., and at twelve at noon Mr. Kavanagh and Lieutenant French started with 500 military police, half of them natives of Oude, and forty sowars. By two o'clock they had reached a ridge from which they could see the zemindary force engaged with the enemy. The enemy opened fire on them from one gun, and sent out a body of skirmishers to check the advance of the relieving force. French led his infantry right at the village in which the enemy were posted, and Mr. Kavanagh, placing himself at the head of his little body of horse, went straight at the enemy's cavalry. The latter broke and fled, and the infantry took to flight as French neared them, with such rapidity that our sowars only cut up thirty or forty of them. In a few moments the enemy had disappeared, losing a few more in a gallant sally of the beleaguered police and zemindars. We lost one man and eight horses, and Mr. Kavanagh's horse was wounded by a sword cut. This little affair has produced a good result: the zemindars of the district now voluntarily maintain a force of 400 matchlockmen to protect the police thannah at Ruheemabad, and Mr. Kavanagh rode within four miles of the enemy at Sundeela without obstruction a day or two afterwards.

THE SIKHS—OUR FORCES IN INDIA.

A correspondent of the "Times" writes—"Under the names of local levies, irregulars, and police there has grown up, at an enormous expense, a new native army, quite as large as that which mutinied in 1857. Taking those corps and regiments and levies already raised with those in the course of formation, the aggregate in a month or so will amount to 130,000 men, of whom 80,000 are Punjabees. But there is a material difference in our comparative strength. The new army has no artillery. When the mutiny broke out in May, 1857, on the Bengal establishment there were only 22,688 European soldiers on the muster-roll. In May 1858, there were 51,191 English soldiers in Bengal, and that number will be considerably larger, in all probability, in the corresponding period of next year. It is painful to be obliged to express doubts respecting the fidelity of troops now fighting under our banners, or, to speak more correctly, it is distressing to be compelled to consider their disloyalty as an ingredient in the necessary calculation of our strength. There have been rumours that the conspiracy at Dera Ismael Khan was not confined to the Malwa Sikhs, and that a regiment raised by Van Cortlandt, and stationed further south, has given reason to apprehend that it was to some extent implicated. However, it must be remembered that the whole of the force of Punjabees only a third or so are real Sikhs; of the remainder about 18,000 are mixed Hindoos, and about 36,000 are Punjabee Mussulmans. In India our whole force may be estimated approximately at the following figures:—British soldiers, 87,000; native troops, 188,000; native military police, trained and disciplined like regular troops, 97,000; total Europeans, 87,000; total natives, 285,000. But the forces in Oude, Pegu, and Bengal Proper are not included in those figures. About 15,000 must be added in order that we may ascertain the force which is now in the pay of the British Government in India, with the certainty of a large increase."

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

In Behar there is constant skirmishing with rebels without much variation in the results; the enemy are always defeated.

The Nena Sahib is separated from his harem and the female relatives of the Peishwa whom he protected, and has retired to the jungles in despair. He has apparently abandoned all active share in the councils of the enemy, and now only seeks his own safety. However, he has still a considerable following, estimated at 2,000 men, of whom the greater part are cavalry, stationed all around his hiding-place. He is accompanied in his dreary seclusion by that minister of all evil, Azimoola Khan, once the pet of some London drawing-rooms and of some English ladies, and by many others of his immediate dependants.

When Jung Bahadoor crossed into Oude he was visited by his old friend Maun Singh, but that wily gentleman had not then quite made up his mind as to our certainty of success, and he got out of the camp of our ally—a matter to be lamented, if our commissioner, Colonel McGregor, could, as some think, have prevented its occurrence—and returned to Fyzabad. Thence he sent promises to Sir James Outram that he would come in and tender his submission and assistance at Lucknow; but he kept none of them, and when Lucknow fell and the enemy fled to the plains, he protested that he was besieged and begged for our assistance. Lately there was some colour for these pretences, but the advance of Sir Hope Grant and the flight of the enemy left him no excuse, and he has now repaired to our camp at Fyzabad, where he was received on the 30th of July.

The ex-King of Delhi has petitioned the Governor-General to remove him from his present place of confinement, and to allow him the full pension that he formerly enjoyed. He says that he would prefer being sent out of the country. The crystal block and marble platform, forming part of the famous Tukht-i-Taos, or Peacock Throne, constructed by the Emperor Shan Jehan, at the cost of £1,000,000 sterling, has been removed from the Hall of Audience in the Palace of Delhi, and carefully packed for transmission to England.

Scindia's Soobah, of Dhink, has captured and sent into Gwalior, Tantia Topce's family of twelve persons, viz., his father, stepmother, one full, and six half brothers; one half sister, the wives of the two elder half brothers, and two servants. Tantia Topce himself was still at large.

Advices from Bangalore says an attempt was made a short time ago to poison the Rajah of Mysore. Eighteen of his household servants are in confinement on suspicion of being concerned in the nefarious attempt.

Several Indian papers refer to some correspondence that has fallen into the hands of the Government of India, disclosing the particulars of the conspiracy formed against it by the ex-King of Oude and his Ministers, and to rumours of the seizure of some correspondence between the King of Oude and the Shah of Persia, revealing ramifications of that conspiracy. It is affirmed that certain Persian merchants in Calcutta were the medium of this correspondence.

A further batch of about 300 mutineer convicts embarked for the Andaman Islands from Calcutta, on the 25th of August, in the ship *Australian*. The men being desperate characters, a strong guard of European sailors was placed over them, and precautionary measures have been adopted to put down any attempt at an outbreak that might occur during the voyage.

Lord Canning has most indignantly denounced and prohibited the system which has prevailed among civilian special commissioners of inquiry, in executing, in cold blood, persons who have only been guilty of holding petty offices under the rebel *de facto* government.

The Shannon's Naval Brigade arrived in Calcutta on the 17th of August, and received a public and triumphal entrance into the city. All the troops in garrison and the Volunteer Corps, together with an immense concourse of spectators, including most of the notabilities of the land, were out to do them honour, and the welcome they received was a cordial and a hearty one.

A frightful flood occurred in the Upper Indus on the 10th of August, by which nearly the whole of the cantonments at Nowshera was swept away. On the morning of the 11th of August Simla was visited by several smart shocks of an earthquake. The Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief are at Allahabad. Lord Harris had returned from the Neilgherries, somewhat restored in health, but far from well. Lord Elphinstone and Sir Henry Somerset were at Poona.

THE PARSEE BARONET.—We read in the "Bombay Standard":—"The publication of the letters patent conferring a baronetcy—eminently deserved—on Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy—has somewhat shocked the idea of many Europeans, by showing that the baronet and his heirs are entitled to take precedence of all beneath the rank of the sons of the nobility. Sir Jamsetjee is entitled to take the lead of Sir James Outram, Sir Henry Somerset, Sir Hugh Rose, and others whose names war has made illustrious."

LORD CANNING'S DEFENCE OF THE OUDE PROCLAMATION.

LORD CANNING has replied to the despatch of the Secret Committee of the East India Company, condemning the proclamation which on the 3rd of March his Lordship directed the chief commissioner of Oude to issue from Lucknow. The reply is dated 17th of June, 1858. First his Lordship complains that the censorious despatch had been made public; that the telegraph had carried it over the length and breadth of India; and that this was "calculated greatly to increase the difficulties in which the government of India is placed, not only by weakening the authority of the Governor-General, but by encouraging resistance and delusive hopes in many classes of the population of Oude." Lord Canning then proceeds to say:—

"No taunts or sarcasms, come from what quarter they may, will turn me from the path which I believe to be that of my public duty. I believe that a change in the head of the government of India at this time, if it took place under circumstances which indicated a repudiation on the part of the Government in England of the policy which has hitherto been pursued towards the rebels of Oude, would seriously retard the pacification of the country. I believe that that policy has been from the beginning mental without weakness, and indulgent without compromising the dignity of the Government. I believe that wherever the authority of the Government has been established it has become manifest to the people in Oude, as elsewhere, that the indulgence to those who make submission, and who are free from atrocious crime, will be large. I believe that the issue of the proclamation, which has been so severely condemned, was thoroughly consistent with that policy, and that it is so viewed by those to whom it is addressed. I believe that that policy, if steadily pursued, offers the best and earliest prospect of restoring peace to Oude upon a stable footing. Firm in these convictions, I will not, in a time of unexampled difficulty, danger, and toil, lay down of my own act the high trust which I have the honour to hold; but I will, with the permission of your honourable committee, state the grounds upon which these convictions rest, and describe the course of policy which I have pursued in dealing with the rebellion in Oude. If, when I have done so, it shall be deemed that that policy has been erroneous, or that, not being erroneous, it has been feebly and ineffectually carried out, or that for any reason the confidence of those who are responsible for the administration of Indian affairs in England should be withheld from me, I make it my respectful but urgent request, through your honourable committee, that I may be relieved of the office of Governor-General of India with the least possible delay."

Then defending his proclamation, Lord Canning says that before issuing it he had come to these conclusions, founded on information and opinions carefully gathered, and from his own observation:—

"That all questions of punishing with death, or even transportation or imprisonment, rebels, who, however inveterate and unceasing their hostility had been, were free from the stain of murder, should be set aside. That the one declared punishment for rebellion should be confiscation to the State of proprietary rights in the soil."

"Finally, that if a proclamation were issued on the capture of Lucknow, it should be one not threatening confiscation, as a possible contingency, but declaring it, pointing out, however, the means by which relaxation and indulgence would be obtainable, and further that no attempt should be made to indicate the measure of relaxation and indulgence, which might be conceded in particular cases."

"The proclamation was therefore made to declare the confiscation, and not to threaten it, because the natives of India, while they attach much weight to a distinct and actual order of the Government, attach very little to a vague threat, whether conveyed by proclamation or otherwise; whilst it might safely be assumed that the spirit in which the clause treating of indulgence would be acted upon in the districts which should be recovered, would gradually become known throughout the provinces, and have a conciliatory effect. Precaution was taken against perversion and mistranslation by publishing, in the first instance, none but vernacular versions of the proclamation."

It was sent to Lucknow on the 2nd of March; on the 10th Lord Canning received from the chief commissioner, Sir James Outram, a letter urging that the terms of the proclamation should be modified; "mainly on the ground that it would render hopeless the attempt to enlist the talookdars on the side of order, and would drive them to a desperate resistance; and recommending that such landholders and chiefs as had not been accomplices in the cold-blooded murders of Europeans should be enlisted on our side by the restoration of their ancient possessions, subject to such restrictions as would protect their dependants from oppression." Lord Canning thought there were reasons which forbade the adoption of Sir James Outram's suggestion; and indeed "the unfavourable view taken by that distinguished officer of the substance of the proclamation was a source of much disappointment" to his Lordship.

In the end, Lord Canning argues that the proclamation worked well; and, though, indeed, there were exceptions enough, the result was to dispose the landholders in our favour.

In another letter to the Court of Directors (date 4th of July, 1858), Lord Canning acknowledges in a courtly manner the "assurance of your continued confidence;" and thus the whole matter was mended between the Company and the Governor.

CHINA.

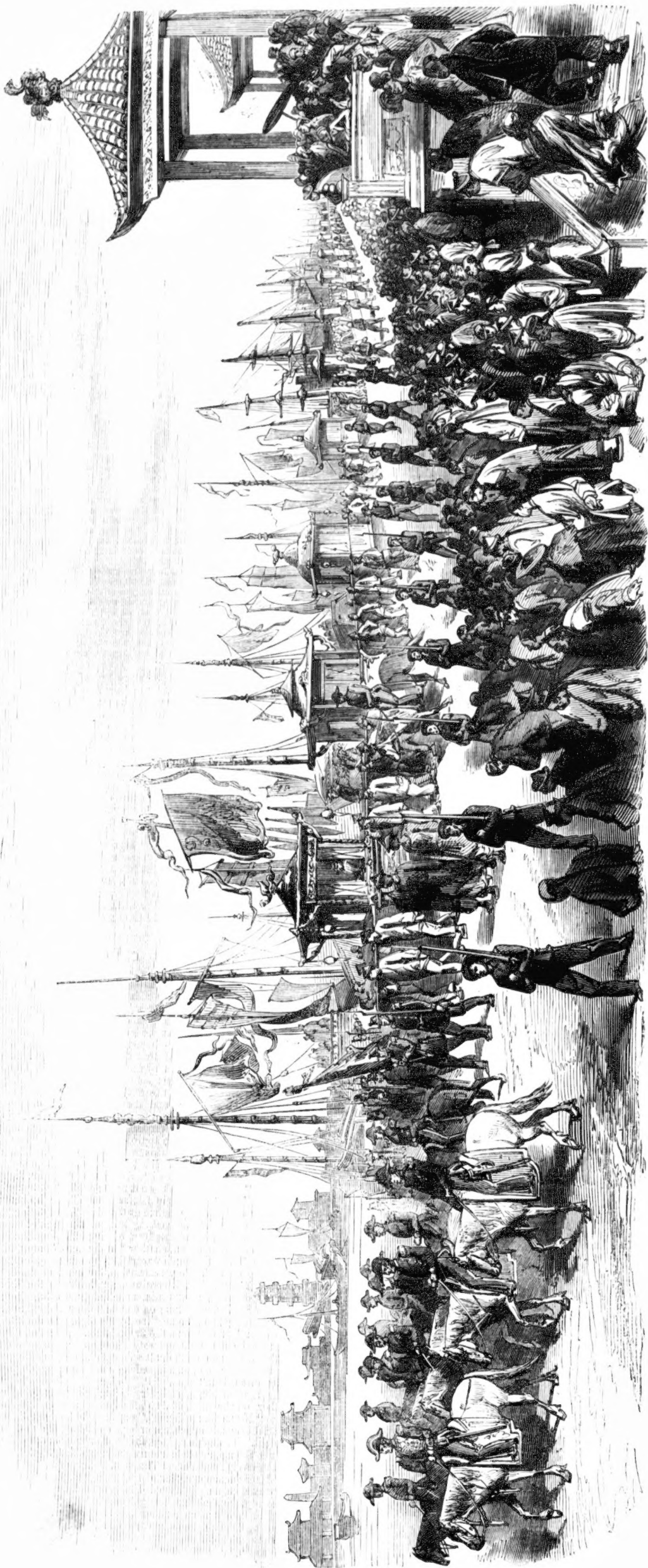
THE Governor-General of the province of Canton, whose malignant proclamations and addresses to the "braves" were brought to England by the last mail, had received news of the conclusion of a treaty of peace, and had immediately announced it to the Cantonese. The immediate effect of this notification was a cessation of the rocketing and gun-firing at night, so that the garrison at Canton was able once more to sleep in peace. It was hoped that these first fruits of the treaty would be permanent, and that the kidnapping and similar dastardly modes of warfare practised by the "braves" would cease.

The Hong papers report some engagements with the Chinese at Canton on the night of the 20th and morning of the 21st of July. Between the little North and the East Gate, the weakest part of our line, the enemy crowded on the wall in numbers; but all our men had to do was to pelt at them through loopholes and embrasures as fast as they could load. With the approach of daylight the "braves," who were headed by mounted mandarins, retired sluggishly. The behaviour of a regiment of Bengal sepoys, the 70th, who were re-armed for this expedition, is spoken of with approval. "No soldiers," says the "Friend," "could have shown a better spirit."

Great dissatisfaction was felt at Hong-Kong because the Earl of Elgin had appointed Shanghai as the place for adjusting the rate of the tariffs, and also for not making known the terms of the treaty. The "Friend of China" of the 10th of August states that "doubts have been disseminated as to whether the Emperor knows of the terms of the treaty," and that such uncertainty was injuring our prestige with the Chinese. Hwang's proclamation, however, should dispose of these doubts. The "Friend" continues: "Doubtless the Earl has carried reserve too far. For instance, mischief must ensue from the circumstance of Sir John Bowring on one occasion proclaiming to the Chinese of Hong-Kong that the new treaty was signed on the 26th of June, and on another that it was on the 3rd of July. As regards the Emperor's assent to the terms of the treaty, there appears no ground for believing that his Majesty has dealt with this business as his predecessor did with that of Nankin, and issued an edict directing its provisions to be carried into effect."

The Earl of Elgin and Sir Michael Seymour both left Shanghai together, on the 30th of July, for Japan direct. The Earl, according to the "North China Herald," expected to be back there to meet the Imperial Commissioners, in order to consider the new tariff, within a fortnight. It was thought probable that in about the same period Sir Michael Seymour would return to Hong-Kong. Count Putiatin, the Russian envoy, was still at Tien-tsin.

At Macao a new and fearful epidemic, resembling cholera, has made its appearance, and is supposed to have been imported from Singapore. It was apprehended that it might reach Hong-Kong. Fever of a novel type had also broken out among the troops at Canton. The first symptom, it seems, is an excruciating headache, soon after the veins appear to be filled, as it were, with molten lead instead of blood, a black rash appears on the surface of the skin, and the patient expires in great agony about the ninth day. It is popularly supposed that this type of fever arises from eating bad bread.

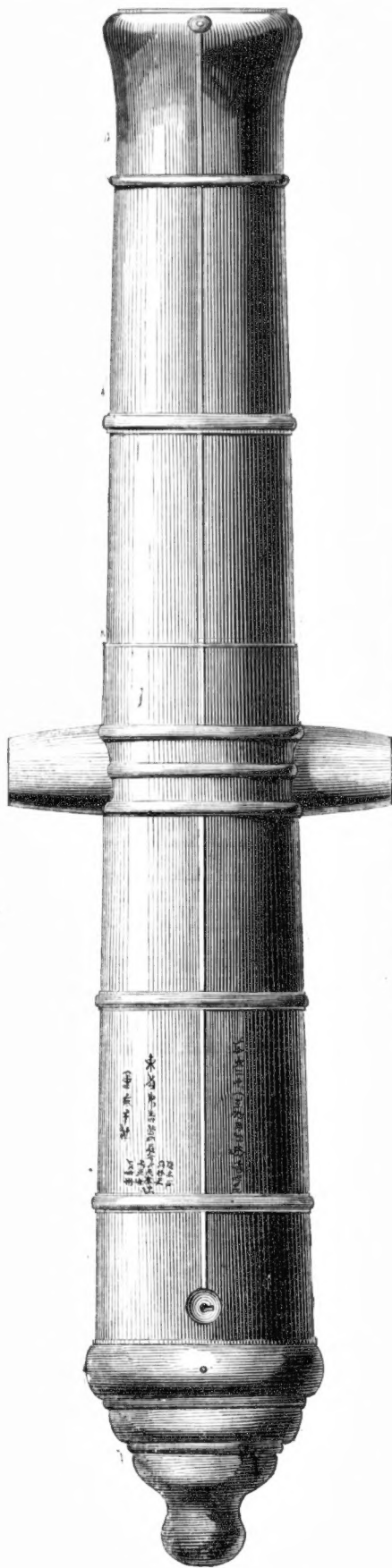


THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR PROCEEDING TO A CONFERENCE WITH THE CHINESE COMMISSIONERS.

BARON GROS PROCEEDING TO A CONFERENCE WITH THE CHINESE COMMISSIONERS.

We have been favoured by a French artist with the accompanying illustration, representing the part taken by Baron Gros in the procession to sign the treaty lately concluded with China. In a previous number we gave a lengthy description of the interview between the representatives of France and England, and the commissioners of his Celestial Majesty, and will now only give some slight details necessary to explain our engraving.

At half-past five o'clock on the afternoon of the 27th of June, Baron Gros left his yamen for the pagoda of Hai-Kouang. At the head of the *cortège* came Admiral Rigault de Genouilly, followed by the captains of the French fleet, all in full uniform and on horseback. In front of the Ambassador, a lieutenant of Marines bore the national flag of France: the general escort was composed of sailors, marine artillerymen, and a body of engineers. Every one knows how *au fait* our dramatic neighbours are in making much of little, and on this occasion their "get up" was really very creditable, and calculated to impress John Chinaman with a profound notion of Gallic importance.



GUN TAKEN AT THE CAPTURE OF THE PEIHO FORTS.

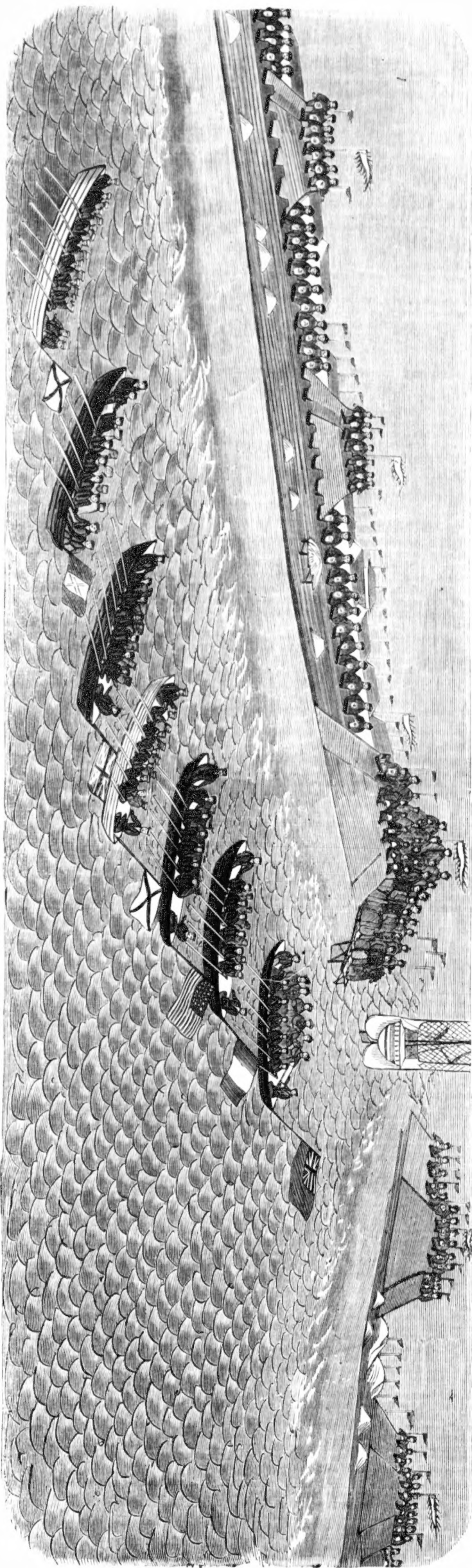
CHINESE PAINTINGS.

Two very curious drawings relating to events that have recently taken place on the Peiho, appear on the following page, and they are interesting as showing our proceedings, as sketched by a Chinese artist.

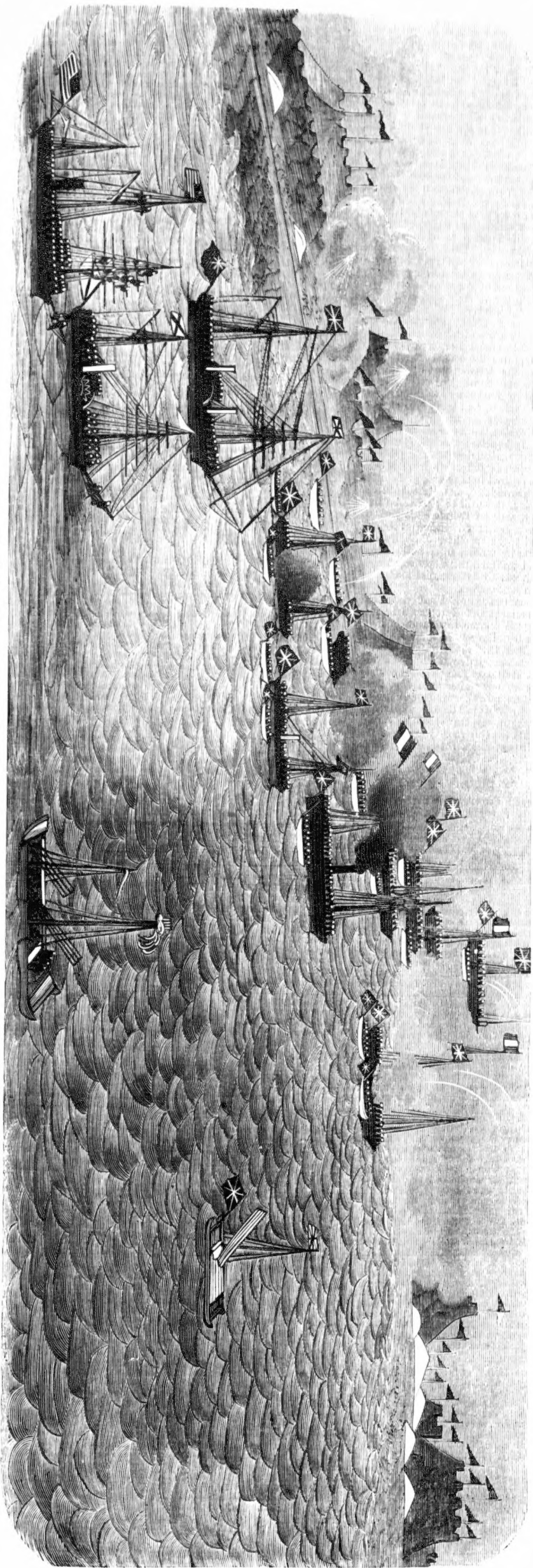
Archaeologists have often lamented the indifference manifested by the Chinese to commemorate, by painting, sculpture, or otherwise, the great events in their history, which at present gives us but vague notions of them. In this respect, the proud descendants of Ham have shown themselves inferior to the Hindoos, and even to the Mexicans, whose past may be traced from what remains of their paintings, bas-reliefs, and temples.

It is evident, however, that the story of our wars with China will not go unrecorded, as we are aware of many instances of Chinese artists employing their pencils in illustrating episodes of our more or less pugnacious intercourse with that nation.

The upper engraving represents the first official application made by the Ministers of England, France, Russia, and the United States, to the Chinese Government, at the mouth of the Peiho. At about ten o'clock, on the morning of the 24th of May, four boats, each bearing the flag



THE ALLIED PLENIPOTENTIARIES DELIVERING DESPATCHES TO THE GOVERNOR OF PETCHELL.—(FROM A DRAWING BY A CHINESE ARTIST.)



THE ATTACK ON THE PEIHO FORTS BY THE ALLIED FLEETS.—(FROM A DRAWING BY A CHINESE ARTIST.)

of their respective nations, left the fleet, and directed their course, towed by the *Shaney*, towards the bar of the Peiho. On reaching the sandbank at the entrance, the boats were cast off by the steamer, and proceeded alone to the point of rendezvous indicated by the Chinese authorities.

On the first boat approaching the shore, a Chinese officer, named Tchen, who had made one or two official visits to the fleet, stepped forward to the landing-place, and, in a tone of exquisite politeness, begged of the Allies not to land, alleging that the Emperor would not fail to look upon their so doing as a violation of his territory.

The request of the Mandarin was complied with; the despatches were handed to him from the boats, and he undertook their speedy transmission to Peking. The Allies then retired, to the great satisfaction of the Chinese, people, soldiers, and mandarins, who thought to be quit of the intruders by this simple ceremony.

However, to the astonishment of the Celestials, matters were not allowed to remain quiescent, so sham negotiations were entered into by the Viceroy of Petcheli, in hope of misleading the outside barbarians.

On the 18th of May, however, as every prospect of an amicable arrangement had disappeared, it was decided to attack the Peiho forts; and it is this memorable feat of arms that the native artist has illustrated in our second engraving.

In the combat, which lasted two hours, the Americans and Russians remained neuter, a fact carefully shown by the draughtsman. When the Chinese would flatter either Russia or the United States, they will mention in their flowery despatches, that "in such a year of the reign of Hien-foung, while the iniquitous armies of England and France were launching fiery missiles on the defences of the Yellow Empire, the honourable ships of Russia and America preserved the most praiseworthy neutrality, unwilling to make common cause with the horrid wretches, who are the execration of man and the abomination of Heaven."

The gun engraved on page 244 was captured at this engagement, and sent home as a trophy by Baron Gros. It is about seven feet in length, and bears on each side of the line of sight an ornamental inscription, most elegantly carved, of which the following is a translation:—

"Founded in the province of Kiang-si, in the fourth month of the twenty-first year of (the emperor) Fao-kouang (1816).

"Under the superintendence of: Lou-thing-kie—Lou-hiem-thing—Li-yong-thai—Hoang-youen-lin—Ou-ming-yans—all of the company of the founders of statues of Buddha in copper, in the province of Canton."

THE CZAR AND THE NOBLES OF RUSSIA.

THE Emperor Alexander on his journey to Warsaw, had to pass through the governments of Tver, Kostroma, Jaroslavl, Nijni-Novgorod, Vladimir, and Moscow. In most of these his Majesty addressed the representatives of the nobility, speaking chiefly of the topic of the day, the situation of the peasant class. The Moscow correspondent of the "Nord" transmits some of the Emperor's addresses, which we translate. To the nobles of the government of Kostroma the Emperor said:—

"I thank you for the zeal with which you have anticipated my desire to improve the condition of the peasants. This question, so seriously affecting Russia's future, moves me to the heart. I hope you will justify my expectation in this question, which is in a manner a vital question, by adapting to the local wants the fundamental principles enunciated in my rescripts, and by terminating with God's aid this work without detriment to yourselves or the peasants. To present the result of your discussions, I give you permission to choose from among you two deputies, who will repair to St. Petersburg when the labours of the committee shall have ended, with a view to revise your propositions definitively. I hope you will justify my confidence."

To the nobility of Nijni-Novgorod, the Emperor spoke as follows:—

"My object, you know, is the public good. Your task, in the grave question now pending, is to balance private interests with the welfare of all. Yet I hear with regret that egotistic opinions are springing up in your midst. I regret this, gentlemen. Selfish views spoil everything that is good. Abandon them. I depend upon you. I hope they will no longer make their appearance, for then only will the common cause make progress. I know you have made real efforts and considerably advanced the work. Continue! This day the term fixed for the labours expires, but as I know that they have not yet ended, I have consented to prolong it to the 1st of Oct. But by the 1st of Oct. you will have completed them, will you not, gentlemen? I reckon upon you; I trust in you, and you will not deceive me. The path is traced out; do not abandon the principles laid down in my rescripts or the programme I gave you. Your labours will be revised in the general committee, and I permit you to delegate two members elected from your body to supply all necessary explanations, and these ought to be made, so as to harmonise with the welfare of all. Act, gentlemen, in such a way that it may be well for yourselves and not ill for the others. I do, indeed, wish you to consult your own interests, but do not forget those of others."

At Moscow, where the measures proposed by the Emperor had not been very favourably received, his Majesty said:—

"I am always happy at being able to address thanks to the nobility; but it is not in my nature to speak against my conscience. I always speak the truth, and, to my great regret, I this day cannot thank you. You may remember, two years ago, in this hall, I spoke to you of the necessity of proceeding, sooner or later, to the reform of those laws which regulate servitude—a reform that must come from above, that it may not come from below. My words have been ill understood. Since then, this reform has been the object of my constant solicitude, and having invoked the Divine blessing on my undertaking, I have commenced the work. When, at the request of the Governments of St. Petersburg and Lithuania, my rescripts appeared, I expected, I confess, that the nobility of Moscow would have been the first to answer my appeal. But it was the nobles of Nijni-Novgorod who took the lead, and the government of Moscow figures neither in the second nor the third rank. I have felt great sorrow at this, because I am proud at having been born at Moscow, because I always loved this city when her apparent to the throne, because I still love it as my native city. I have fixed for you the bases of the reform, and I shall never swerve from them."

Here the Emperor explained the fundamental principles of the abolition of serfdom, as contained in his rescripts, and continued as follows:—

"I love the nobility; I regard it as the first support of the throne. I desire the welfare of the people, but have no intention that it should be effected to your detriment; but you yourselves, in your own interest, ought to endeavour to improve the condition of the peasants. Remember that all Russia has its eyes fixed on the government of Moscow, and I am always ready to do for you all that lies in my power to do; give me, then, the possibility of espousing your interests."

THE EXPEDITION TO COCHIN-CHINA.—A letter from an officer in the Philippine Islands, states that everything is ready for the expedition to Cochin-China, and that the Spanish soldiers, excited by the sermons of Father Guina, who has described to them, with every detail, all the torments inflicted on the missionary priests, are eager to be led against their barbarous enemies. The regiment of Ferdinand VII. has had the image of the Virgin of the Pillar embroidered on its standard, and blessed with great religious pomp.

FRENCH OPINION OF ENGLAND.—The character and position of England is just now a favourite topic among French writers. One of them, in "Le Reveil," thinks that our flourishing commerce, our great wealth, our splendid navy, and the part we have played in the drama of mankind, make us a brilliant nation; but there is another side, on which is written—In solvent press, extravagant platform, parade of vice in the streets, and a religious situation which is a mass of errors and absurdities. So, continues he, every impartial and honest man takes pity upon England.

CORSICAN BROTHERS.—"I once," says M. Trousseau, "had two brothers for clients, who were twins, very rich, and both directors de maisons de jeux célèbres. They were so like each other that I did not know them apart. But more than this, they had a remarkable pathological similitude. Thus, one of them, whom I saw at Nèthesmes, suffering from rheumatic ophthalmia, said to me, 'My brother at this moment must have an ophthalmia like mine.' And as I dissented to this, he two days afterwards showed me a letter from his brother, who wrote: 'I have my ophthalmia, thou must also have thine.' However singular this may appear, it is perfectly true; I have witnessed similar facts. These twins were also both frightfully asthmatic."—Medical Times.

RE ORGANISATION OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

TOWARDS the close of last November, the Court of Directors forwarded to the military department a despatch to the Governor-General, authorising him to appoint a commission of military officers of the three Presidencies and of such Queen's officers as had Indian experience, "as soon as circumstances might permit, to assist in forming wise conclusions on the most important subject which must soon press for decision—the proper organisation of the army in India," and, at the same time, suggesting as heads of inquiry for the commission, first, the propriety of raising corps each in a prescribed district, where alone they should be recruited. Next, should corps be composed of troops or companies of separate castes, or should the castes be mixed up in the regiment? Should Europeans—i. e., English—form a component part of native regiments? Would it be expedient to enlist natives of other tropical countries, and, if so, in what way should they be distributed? Whether the grades of native officers should be abolished, and each company provided with a British sergeant and corporal instead? In case the grades of native officers be retained, whether the system should not be assimilated to that of Madras and Bombay? The best organisation for separate military police corps; the powers of commanding officers; the drilling and training of cadets; the system of punishment; staff employment of officers in its relation to regimental efficiency, were also indicated as heads of inquiry. These inquiries were to include infantry, regular and irregular; cavalry ditto; artillery; sappers and miners; and the propriety of composing the artillery and engineers of mixed natives and Europeans, or of Europeans exclusively. The Commissioners were also expected to give their opinion as to the proportion of natives to Europeans, and the result of their labours was to be laid before the Commander-in-Chief, after which the Governor-General was to furnish the Directors with his careful review of the measures to be taken for the maintenance and organisation of the army. The date of this document proves the completeness of the misapprehension and the greatness of the delusion under which the Hon. Company were labouring in reference to the nature of the revolt in India. In November, 1857, before Lucknow was relieved, or the Gwalior Contingent defeated, or Oude or Rohilkund wrested from the rebels, the Directors are calmly considering the question which they think "must soon press for decision,"—the reconstruction of the Bengal army. It may be readily imagined that the Governor-General found it impossible to form a commission of the kind. Officers of experience and ability had their hands full of their more particular duties, and cannot even now be spared from their posts. After some delay, which was most likely unavoidable, and of deliberation, which was commendable, Lord Canning, in April, 1858, resolved that the commission was an impossibility, and he therefore decided to intrust Colonel Durand, who had been Resident at Indore up to the outbreak, and is generally considered to be an officer of ability and judgment, with the task of obtaining in writing from eminent and experienced public servants, civil and military, their opinion on each head of the inquiry, a copy of which was to be forwarded to each of them for consideration. This scheme is now afoot.

When Colonel Durand began his labours an order had just been issued for the formation of four very large regiments of European dragoons, and an intention existed of retaining the disbanded regiments of light cavalry which had not mutinied. Sir John Lawrence and Sir J. Cotton protested against such an act, and declared that those regiments were, if possible, worse than the corps which had openly mutinied. Colonel Durand therefore recommended that, instead of four large regiments with such auxiliaries, there should be ten new regiments of 450 sabres each, to be raised at home, of moderate standard, and the plan is now under the consideration of Government. India will thus be made tolerably independent of her Majesty's cavalry in case they should be wanted at home or elsewhere; and we hear that the Governor-General and the Commander-in-Chief concur in the views of Colonel Durand's memorandum.

LORD STANLEY ON INDIA.

A GRAND entertainment was given at Fishmongers' Hall, last week, to Lord Stanley and the members of the Indian Council. In the course of the evening, his Lordship said:—

"I do not wish to revive, or even to allude to, past controversies; but this I may be permitted to say—that throughout those Parliamentary discussions which ended in the transfer of the Indian government from the East India Company to the Executive of this country, that change was uniformly represented by me, and by those colleagues with whom I acted, as not being in the nature of a penal proceeding, as not involving any sentence of condemnation against the administration of that great company whose century of empire has come to an end. We regarded it, and I think rightly, as a change which was a natural and even a necessary result of the lapse of time and the progress of events. I believe that that change will be productive of benefit to India. I hope it may lead to the larger introduction into that country of European energy, enterprise, and thought. I believe, and rejoice to believe, that as the insurrection of the last fifteen months is gradually dying out, so also the exasperation of feeling which prevailed in this country against the natives of India—and which, under all the circumstances, one can hardly regard with astonishment, though it may be a matter of regret—is in course of gradual extinction with the cause to which it owed its origin, and will at no distant period—if it has not already done so—give place to a better and habitual frame of mind. I think, however, we should remember that it is not only from ill will or ill feelings on our part, but also from uninformed and misdirected efforts for doing good, that our influence and government in India have been exposed to danger. We must look upon the natives of India also as men with whom, and not against whom, we have to work—as men with feelings of their own—as men who, although politically subject to us, have a sense of their own rights and a respect for their own independence, and as men who will be apt to be all the more tenacious of their intellectual independence and national customs because of the political subjection in which they are held. I do not hesitate to say that, unless we keep within proper bounds our feeling of national superiority—unless we remember carefully, and even jealously, to respect the feelings, and even the prejudices, of those with whom we have to deal—above all, if we attempt to introduce the force and influence of Government into that which ought to be matter of private conviction between man and his own conscience, or if we are even suspected, upon plausible grounds, of attempting or intending it, our endeavours at improvement will be thrown back in our face as insults, and we shall end by doing more harm than good. In selecting those who are to assist us in the administration of Indian affairs, we looked not to parliamentary connections, not to agreement in English politics, not to personal friendships, but solely to administrative efficiency, and to acquaintance with the various branches of the Indian service. To any one who considers what the position of India is, it must be obvious that upon us there devolves a labour which is not light. We have an army to re-organise, and an empire to pacify. I confess that when I think of the amount of responsibility which at this time and in this position devolves upon us—although, perhaps fortunately for myself, I have not much leisure to reflect upon it—I am inclined to feel appalled at the weight of the task we have undertaken. This consolation, at least, we have—I believe we are surrounded by those who are competent to give advice as good and as honest as was ever afforded to an English Minister."

MR. ANSTET SUSPENDED.—The "China Mail," of August 10, mentions the suspension, from the office of Attorney-General, of Mr. Chisholm Anstet, "who," it says, "has acted towards the governor and other officials in a manner which necessitated the step." Mr. Anstet's failings are so well known in England that his suspension will not cause any surprise, however the necessity of it may be regretted there, as it certainly is here by all who have observed his honesty of purpose, and his skill in dealing with Chinese witnesses. Mr. Day, the senior counsel in the colony after Dr. Bridges, who still acts as Colonial Secretary, will take his place in the interim as Attorney-General.

VALUABLE MSS.—Letters from Florence mention the satisfaction felt by intelligent British residents there at our Government having secured a mass of important MSS., which had lain dormant and decaying in the archives of the Tuscan Court Library. The correspondence of Francesco Ferris, Envoy at St. James's, temp. Charles II. and James II.; the despatches, seven hundred in number, of Cardinal Filippo Gualterio and his brother, who had been in those days the centre of Jacobite, French, and Papal intrigues, are now available to the historian. "Much praise is awarded to the laborious investigations of Montgomery Stuart, who discovered these latent MSS., and enlisted Lord John Russell's attention to their acquisition while in Italy." Mr. Panizzi has completed the negotiations.

SIR G. C. LEWIS, M.P., ON PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

THE annual meeting of the Radnorshire Agricultural Association took place on Friday at Knighton, and was largely attended by the gentry and agriculturists of the surrounding district.

At the public dinner in the evening, Sir G. C. Lewis took the chair, and was supported by Sir J. Walsh, M.P. The former gentleman, in proposing a toast, took occasion to express some opinions on Parliamentary reform. He observed—"It is said that the circumstances of the times demand a systematic plan of Parliamentary reform. I am not disputing that proposition, but I only say that any government which brings or proposes to bring forward a plan of Parliamentary reform, is bound to state distinctly what is the evil they profess to remedy, and what are the defects in our present system which they intend to remove. I must be permitted to remark that those persons who think it is possible by some process of ingenuity to propose a Reform Bill which shall increase the power of a particular party, which shall throw an increase of influence into the hands of a particular class of the community, are entirely mistaken in their supposition that any measure, any contrivance, any device of that kind, will impose on the general intelligence of the country or influence the decision of Parliament. In my opinion, in whatever form a Reform Bill may be introduced into the House of Commons, it will come out of that house a real Reform Bill, increasing the popular character of the Legislature. It will give greater weight to the voice of the people in the councils of the House of Commons, and if any government should entertain different views, and propose a Reform Bill not having that object, in my opinion they will not only be grievously disappointed in their expectations, but will attempt to pass off a deception upon the country. That must, in my opinion, be the necessary result of any proposal which may be made at the present time for parliamentary reform, and I will add that, as it seems to me, it is the only legitimate basis upon which such a proposal can be made."

Again Sir G. C. Lewis said—"We are not necessarily to identify democracy with liberty; we are not necessarily to suppose that progress in the direction of democracy will itself, without proper guards and securities, increase our public liberties. I will ask you to look across the Rhine, to look at Germany as well as to France, and say whether the hasty and ill-considered rush they made a few years ago in the direction of democracy has not ended in riveting despotism on their neck. Nothing is more obvious than that a hasty and ill-considered attempt to run by a short cut to the goal of democracy, will land you in the very opposite goal. I will, however, add that, in my opinion, all advances which we in this country have made in the direction of democracy, have likewise been advances in the direction of liberty. That which has been hitherto will, I sincerely trust, continue to be the case. It is with a view of contributing my small mite to that conclusion, that I have ventured to throw out my sentiments with respect to the coming Reform Bill. I trust those who propose it will form a distinct idea of what it is they seek to accomplish. I trust, also, they will make an honest and sincere proposal, and that they will not attempt to accomplish one thing under the mask of another. If they do, they will have the certainty of detection before their eyes. From whatever quarter a Reform Bill may come, and in whatever shape it may present itself, I trust it will receive that consideration which will, when it obtains the sanction of the Legislature, make it tend to the public good; and as I feel sure it will be, and must be, in the direction of democracy, so I believe it may be brought to increase our public liberties."

THE WEEDON COMMISSION.

EVIDENCE recently given before the Commissioners, reveals a style of book-keeping at Weedon of the most wonderful character. Mr. George Munro, assistant military store-keeper, deposed that "the mode of keeping the accounts was such that, in my opinion, there was neither security to the public nor to the storekeeper, the ordinance regulations being, as it were, positively set at defiance. There were neither receipt nor issue journals from which to post the ledgers, and those that were posted were made up in the most irregular manner from the contract books, and from such loose documents as may have found their way into the ledger room. There was no attempt to ascertain whether all the vouchers even reached. In fact, there was no system of any kind, and instead of the proper books being kept there, was an attempt at a most ostentatious display of regimental ledgers, with only one clerk to keep them. In the storehouses I found what I considered a most objectionable and a most dangerous mode of conducting the duty—viz., the receipt, inspection, custody, and issue of the various stores in the several branches being in the hands of one person for each branch, without any kind of check upon his correctness. In the contract branch I found the same laxity prevail, and a facility almost incredible for any clerk in collusion with a contractor, by merely adding or altering a figure, to cause that contractor to be paid for articles that never came near the storehouses." This gentleman, it seems, represented the state of affairs to his superiors, and was politely put down.

The Messrs. Isaacs declared that payment was due to them for 1,500 pairs of boots, 500 delivered on the 19th of August last, and 1,000 on the 15th of January. Mr. Watson, the inspector, for some time resisted this claim, declaring that no such delivery had been made. Further examination into what are by courtesy called the books at Weedon, disclosed, or seemed to disclose, that Watson was in error here. It certainly did appear by Watson's memorandum-book (the only bona fide book, according to Mr. Munro, in the establishment) that the 1,500 pairs of boots were delivered on the days stated, but there was no note of their having been inspected; there was no record or day-book in the office to trace the deliveries; there was no document to check the entries by, except by a book kept by one M'Kay a labourer, which purported to be a daily record of all packages entering the office. This book, on examination, was found not to agree with Watson's as to the dates or quantities of the alleged delivery of boots by the Messrs. Isaacs. But this book of M'Kay's is justly rejected by the witness Munro as wholly undeserving of credit. It was checked by no one; though purporting to be a day-book, it was a month in arrears; and it contained no less than twelve serious omissions in the space of three months. Under these chaotic circumstances, the assistant military storekeeper at Weedon is driven upon the following naïve recommendation:—"I would suggest that Messrs. Isaacs be requested to furnish a statement of all the boots they have sent to the depot, as that, in my opinion, is the only way we have of checking the accounts!" Puzzled imbecility can hardly sink much deeper than this.

WOOLWICH WORKMEN.—A batch of six iron guns, cast in the Royal standard foundry in Woolwich Arsenal, were on Saturday submitted to the ordinary proof, when four of the number burst into fragments. Considering the enormous outlay in the establishment, as appears by the estimates for building, machinery, &c., of upwards of £130,000 since the 1st of Jan., 1854, to 31st of March, 1858, it is somewhat surprising that measures have not been taken to insure a more profitable result.

ARMY AND NAVY EXPENDITURE IN 1857.—The expenditure of the navy in 1856-57 amounted to £13,664,081 4s. 10d., while the Parliamentary grants for that service amounted to £16,568 61s., thus showing a surplus of receipts over expenditure of £1,904,100 6s. 9d., after deducting £432 8s. 5d., an amount written off as irrecoverable from naval defaulters. In eleven of the items of expenditure the outlay was £2,493,139 15s. 7d. less than the original estimate; in the seven other items of which the expenditure is composed, the outlay exceeded the original estimate by £588,607 6s. 5d. The army and militia expenditure for the same year reached £21,114,210 15s. 8d., whereas the sum granted by Parliament for the service was only £20,478,034. In fourteen items the actual expenditure was £556,605 less than the grants; but in the other seven items of the account the grants were exceeded by £1,192,782 0d. 7d. The difference between the receipts and the expenditure was made up by drawing upon the vote for the extraordinary expenses of the Russian war.

ADDITION TO OUR NAVAL STRENGTH.—From the official quarterly "Navy List," just published, we find that there are now 12 screw ships, 5 sloops, 4 frigates, 3 corvettes, 3 sailing ships, and 1 schooner building at the various naval dockyards, which vessels will carry in all 1,599 guns. The following are their names, together with the places where they are being built:—The *Ariadne*, 32, screw frigate, at Deptford; the *Atlas*, 91, screw, at Chatham; the *Aurora*, 51, screw frigate, at Pembroke; the *Chameleon*, 17, screw sloop, at Deptford; the *Charybdis*, 21, screw corvette, at Chatham; the *Defiance*, 91, screw, at Pembroke; the *Duncan*, 100, screw, at Portsmouth; the *Edgar*, 91, screw, at Woolwich; the *Galatea*, 26, screw frigate, at Woolwich; the *Gibraltar*, 101, screw, at Devonport; the *Grayhound*, 17, screw, at Pembroke; the *Hood*, 80, screw, at Chatham; the *Howe*, 121, screw, at Pembroke; the *Icarus*, 11, screw sloop, at Deptford; the *Immortalité*, 50, screw frigate, at Pembroke; the *Irresistible*, 80, screw, at Chatham; the *Jason*, 21, screw corvette, at Devonport; the *Mutine*, 17, screw sloop, at Deptford; the *Narcissus*, 50, at Devonport; the *Orpheus*, 21, screw corvette, at Chatham; the *Pantolon*, 10, screw, at Devonport; the *Pelican*, 17, screw sloop, at Pembroke; the *Prince of Wales*, 131, at Portsmouth; the *Ranger*, 8, screw schooner, at Deptford; the *Rovings*, 91, screw, at Pembroke; the *Rinaldo*, 16, screw sloop, at Portsmouth; the *Royal Frederick*, 116, at Portsmouth; and the *Victoria*, 121, screw at Portsmouth.

THE LIFE OF A KING.—The Paris correspondent of the "Times" says of his Neapolitan Majesty—"The King lives in perpetual fear of assassination. He attended a religious ceremony some time since at the church of Ischia, in the island where he passed the summer. The musicians were not permitted to carry their instruments into the church in cases, lest they should contain an infernal machine or an incendiary bull. During the entire service the King fixed his eyes anxiously on the musicians. Such is the miserable existence which the King of Naples leads."

BURNING OF THE STEAM-SHIP AUSTRIA.

The ship *Pendleton*, of Virginia, arrived at Bristol a few days since, with the report that the screw-steamer *Austria* was burnt at sea on the 13th of September.

The *Austria*, a ship of 2,500 tons, was built at Greenock last year; and though running from Hamburg to New York (touching at English ports), was an English vessel. When the *Austria* left Southampton on the 14th of September, she had on board 513 souls, of whom the crew formed about 100. About a dozen of the passengers were English, the rest chiefly Germans, mostly of the better class. It is feared that not more than seventy persons are saved of the whole number. The *Pendleton* reports that a French barque had rescued sixty-eight persons from the *Austria's* boats and pieces of floating wood, &c.; and on the 15th of September, in lat. 44.48 N., long. 40 W., the *Pendleton* supplied provisions to the English barque *Lotus*, having on board 18 persons who had been transferred from the French barque. They were to be taken on by the *Lotus* to Halifax, whither she was bound from Liverpool. The other 50 persons rescued were still on board the French barque, name and destination unknown, but intended to land passengers at Fayal.

The captain of the steamer jumped overboard, and was drowned soon after the outbreak of the fire, which is said to have been caused by fumigating the ship between decks with boiling tar.

The ship *Roseneath*, from Glasgow, arrived at Halifax, reports that on September 15, in lat. 45.12, long. 41.48, she passed a large red-bottomed steamer on fire. An hour before saw a barque pass close alongside the steamer. Came up with the barque, and found her to be the barque *Arabian*, from Glasgow for Halifax, and she reported that no persons were visible on the steamer, which appeared to be of American build, having a very short bowsprit. Her engines worked through the upper deck, and a large beam above deck was still standing. Could not learn her name, as it was blowing from the north-east at the time.

CONDITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

MR. HENLEY, a well-known electrical engineer, reports to the Atlantic Telegraph Company the result of his investigations into the cause and seat of the fault in the great cable. He says:—

"That the cable is not severed we have abundant proof, but that any one, by the most delicate tests, discover whether the conducting wire is so or not in a cable of this length, I utterly deny. Should such be the case, it does not follow that the line must be rendered useless, as I have known underground telegraphs work for months after the conducting wires have been separated more than a quarter of an inch by the decomposing power of the batteries employed. A slight fault existed in the gutta percha, this admitted moisture, which, by conveying the electricity to the earth, caused the decomposition of the wire, and then aided the working of the telegraph, by conducting a portion of the current from one point of the separated wire to the other. Signals were much reduced in power as in the present case, still the wire continued to work; and if such can be done for months, it might happen for a longer period.

"If by any means the conducting-wire separates, and the gutta percha remains sound, all communication ceases, from the absence of moisture to complete the circuit. By our testing, one fact is unquestionably established, and that is, the fault is not beyond 300 miles. I speak of the great fault. Others may exist between that and Newfoundland; but if it be a fact (as I have heard) that on testing at the latter place very little earth is shown, the probability is that the other part of the cable is good.

"In my opinion the fault or faults existed in the cable before it was submerged, and that they would have been detected and made good had the precaution been observed by having the whole cable tested in water during its manufacture. Its not showing so bad when first laid is easy to be accounted for, as it takes some time for the water to soak through the coating of pitch and tar.

"Had your cable been injured after submersion by resting on the sharp edge of a rock, the inner wire and the outer metallic covering must have come in contact, and that this is not the case we have absolute proof, both from the fact of a battery current being generated by the iron sheathing and the exposed copper, and from signals being received from Newfoundland; for did the iron touch the copper conductor in the smallest point, not the slightest signal could be observed. Signals were, from the first, much weaker than they ought to have been from a tolerable insulated line of length, and were scarcely sufficient to work a very delicate relay (which can be used with a current so feeble that it could only just be detected on the tongue). The currents now received are not more than a tenth of that power."

Mr. Henley then says that "earth currents," or natural currents of electricity, must always disturb submarine and subterranean lines (like the atmospheric currents, as they are termed in overground wires).

"Occasionally, on some lines, all communication is stopped for a short time when these terro-magnetic currents are unusually strong. On lines of a hundred miles or so, they only show themselves at intervals: at other times the line is quite free. But on a line of such enormous length as the Atlantic cable, electric disturbance is sure to take place on some part of it at all times; and if a current is set in motion in any part, the effect is communicated throughout the whole. In another cable (as well as in this, had its insulation been more perfect) earth currents would not cause much trouble, as the working currents sent through the line would not lose their strength as in the present case, and consequently would overpower them."

Mr. Henley has erected a large magnetic machine at Valentia, and he hopes that, by its means, and by the clerks at either end acting according to preconcerted arrangements, telegraphic correspondence may be renewed.

"If that is not accomplished, probably the best thing then would be to raise the cable for about fifteen miles out, and test. I cannot say I have any hopes of the fault being found within that distance, but, as it would not be attended with any trouble or risk, I think it worth a trial. If the injury is in the deep soundings, I believe any attempt to raise it would be the means of breaking the cable, and losing the end altogether. If the state of the cable should not get worse, I am still in hopes of its being rendered workable by transmitting signals slowly, by having delicate receiving apparatus, and by adopting means for neutralising the earth current."

In another part of his report, Mr. Henley expresses an opinion that "four words per minute will be the maximum rate of transmission through any Atlantic cable with the present dot and dash system. If other plans can be worked, by which a letter would be indicated by one or two signals, the rate would be increased in proportion," which would be most desirable.

KORRA MOORIA.—The *El Dorado*, which recently arrived at Hull, with guano from Korra Mooria, brings the news that there was a good deal of sickness among the crews of some fifteen ships which were at that island when she sailed. There was very little business doing. Very high expectations had been indulged in respecting the islands, but these had not been realised; and the getting a supply of water was a very difficult job. There had been a fight between the labourers on the island, who had come from the opposite coast of Arabia, and the English seamen, which proved fatal to two of the former.

ARRIVAL OF A FORTY-FIVE TON CUTTER FROM NEW YORK.—A cutter of forty-five tons burden, the *Christopher Columbus*, has arrived at Southampton from New York. She sailed on the 19th of August, and has occupied forty-five days in the voyage. She is fifty-three feet in length over all, forty-five feet keel, sixteen feet in width, and the mast is fifty feet six inches long. She has no raised bulwarks, the deck being merely protected by a stout rope sustained by iron stanchions. Her greatest draught of water is six feet. A more frail-looking bark in which to cross the stormy Atlantic it is scarcely possible to conceive, and her only crew were one man and two boys. The *Christopher Columbus* was built by her navigator, Mr. Webb, at Stamford, Connecticut, in seven months, every part of the work being executed by Webb himself, except the stepping of the mast and the rigging, even to the cutting down and shaping of the timber with which she is constructed. The vessel is built of oak, and is slopp-rigged. A plain cabin, with sleeping recesses on either side, in the centre of the vessel, the stores occupying either end, constitutes the whole internal economy of this remarkable craft. The voyage was conducted throughout on strict temperance principles, and the stores of provisions were of a very modest and unopulent character.

OLD MUNICH'S BIRTHDAY.—On Monday week the city of Munich celebrated the 700th anniversary of its foundation. The chief feature of the fête was an immense cortege in which 3,000 men and 500 horses figured, and which represented the respective centuries from the twelfth to the nineteenth, with their emblems, costumes, and the great personages of the national history of each epoch. The king and queen viewed the cortege from the windows of the palace. The "nineteenth century"—which was particularly numerous, owing to the presence of fifty-four guilds, the singing societies, &c.—drew up before the palace, and the members of the managing committee of the fêtes were presented to their majesties.

IRELAND.

BALLINABOE FAIR.—Ballinaboe fair was visited by Lord Eglintoun, on Saturday. The fair was full, and though business was commenced rather later than usual this year, "transactions were upon the whole satisfactory."

FATAL FIRE IN DUBLIN.—A fire, attended with lamentable loss of life, broke out on Sunday night, at the house of Mr. Woodroffe, a vintner, Island Bridge. The engines of the police, fire brigade, and the barracks, arrived very shortly after the outbreak; but the flames had got the mastery, and of seven inmates only four were saved. Mrs. Woodroffe, her daughter, and a little boy, falling victims to the flames. A young woman, who threw herself from the window, had her leg broken and her head dreadfully contused. A girl and boy were rescued by the efforts of the neighbours. Two brave young men of the 13th Light Dragoons rushed into the still burning ruins and brought out Mrs. Woodroffe's charred and mutilated body. The house was burnt to the ground, and the houses on each side were very much injured.

SCOTLAND.

MR. DAVID ROBERTS IN EDINBURGH.—Mr. David Roberts, the well-known artist, being on a visit at Edinburgh, the Town Council conferred the freedom of the city upon him. The Lord Provost said they were proud to pay a tribute of respect to one whose genius had shed lustre on the place of his birth. Mr. Roberts said:—"If I have risen in life from humble circumstances, and from a humble position, I hope I have done so with honour, with integrity, and with probity; for whatever country a man may belong to, if these things are kept in view, he will never want friends. I have certainly through life met with many friends; and I very rarely, if ever, lost them. The same principles which have guided me, I am sure guide thousands of my countrymen: and if I, a humble apprentice-boy, from this my native town, have, by adopting these principles, risen to distinction, and if my acceptance of this mark of respect of the city of Edinburgh should be an inducement to the apprentice-boys of Edinburgh to persevere in a course of laudable and honourable conduct, in their names I accept this honour, and with gratitude return my sincere thanks to you for it. I hope I shall never disgrace this burgess-ticket. I am sure I shall always prize it and do honour to it." It is duly recorded that Mr. Roberts shook hands with all the Councillors before he quitted the Council Chamber.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT IN SHELLEIGH.—A Dutchess crew were engaged in the herring fishing. After hauling their nets and setting sail for land, the boat being well laden with herrings, she was struck by a heavy sea, which threw her on her side, in which position she remained, the sail preventing the boat from either totally upsetting or righting. The crew all got on the boat, but an hour after one of them let go his hold from sheer exhaustion, and was never more seen. The other three continued to hold on for about four hours, one of them assisting his father; but no aid appearing, the young man felt himself compelled to abandon his father, in order to preserve his own life. The old man immediately sank beneath the waters. In this perilous condition the two remaining men continued, tossed about at the mercy of the waves, and clinging to the wreck of their boat, till about one o'clock in the forenoon, or nearly six hours after the accident occurred, when the crew of a smack rescued them. We observe, too, that a fishing-boat, with a crew of six, was lost off Orkney lately in a gale.

THE PROVINCES.

A CLERGYMAN HUNG IN EFFIGY.—One morning last week early risers in Westonzoyland were alarmed at the apparition of a human form, suspended over the church tower by a rope attached to a pole. The object was conspicuous and discernible for miles round—the wind solemnly and slowly turning the figure to all points of the compass. In the midst of the clamour occasioned by this discovery, it was ascertained that the suspended form was not that of a real human being, but an effigy, intended to represent the vicar of the parish, who had rendered himself obnoxious to many of the parishioners. The general horror was now converted into general hilarity, in which the people had plenty of time to indulge, for it was late in the morning before the officials could get up to the belfry, the door of which had been fastened, and the bell ropes taken away. On the following day much excitement still prevailed. The villagers professed to summon coroner's juries to sit on the clergyman's body; doggerel songs concerning him were sung in the streets; and hawkers cried his last dying speech and confession.

TERMINATION OF THE COLLIERIES' STRIKE.—The strike at the Oaks Colliery, near Barnsley, which has lasted upwards of eighteen weeks, was brought to a conclusion on Saturday on terms satisfactory to both masters and men. The strike has been enormously expensive to the masters, and has cost the Miners' Association upwards of £2,000. On Friday evening two of the proprietors received a deputation of the turn-outs at the request of the latter. The men having previously arranged with the "black sheep," about twenty of that body were present. After some discussion an agreement, which had the consent of the black sheep, was drawn up. It was to the following effect:—The men to go in at the old terms (before the introduction of the fifteen per cent. reduction), and the men then working in the pit to draw lots with the turn-outs for the places to work in; proceedings against the eight men in custody charged with being concerned in the late outrage to be dropped; the turn-outs to pay one-half of the expense of repairing the damage done by the attack on the houses on the 24th ult.; no partiality to be shown, nor the leaders to be singled out or sacrificed. On Saturday the men took their tools down the pit, and fixed upon their respective places of work, and on Monday morning the pit resumed its former busy appearance. While the South Yorkshire coal district may be at present considered to be in a settled state, in that of West Yorkshire, which embraces the coal-fields in the neighbourhood of Leeds and Wakefield, a struggle seems inevitable. Several colliers there have been on strike for twenty-six weeks, and it is contemplated by the masters to close all the collieries in the district.

COINING TURKISH PIASTRES.—A Greek merchant, resident in Manchester, named Antonio Calvoecorressi, was charged at Birmingham on Monday with having caused to be made in Birmingham a large quantity of Turkish piasres for circulation in Alexandria, Syria, and Turkey. On the bench, with the magistrates, was Abdullah Effendi, the Turkish consul at Manchester. A Mr. Dipple, brass caster, deposed to the fact of Calvoecorressi coming to him in March last, and giving him an order for a large quantity of piasres. About fifty-five gross of the coin were manufactured, and forwarded to Calvoecorressi before the real nature of the transaction was discovered. Messrs. Ralph and George Heaton, brass casters, deposed that they had been offered a similar order. They declined it, and pointed out from the act of Parliament the illegality of the transaction. The prisoner was committed for trial, the offence being shown to be a misdemeanour, and not a felony. Bail was accepted, the prisoner being bound in £200, with two sureties in £100 each. In connection with this fraud, a Frenchman, named Hugon, has been detected in coining piasres in London. He is in custody.

THE LAST OF THE MAIL-COACHES.—The old Derby mail, the last of the four-horse coaches out of Manchester, finished its course on Saturday. When the rivalry of rails and steam had run all other coaches off the road, the "Derby Dilly" still held its own, and the well-known route through Buxton and Bakewell to Rowsley could still boast its "four-in-hand," though "the team" was hardly equal to what had been when coaching was in its best days. It was thought that railways would not find their way through the Peak, but the Midland line penetrated as far as Rowsley some time ago, and more recently, the London and North-Western have reached Whaley Bridge on the other side, leaving but a short link to be filled up, and the last of the old four-in-hand mails has succumbed to the competition of the iron horse.

MURDER IN THE FAMILY.—Mrs. William Janion, the wife of a retired sea captain living at Runcorn, has been found dead in her own house, with such marks upon her body as led the police to apprehend both Mr. Janion and his daughter (by a former marriage) on suspicion of murdering her. The evidence at the inquest was to the effect that the poor woman was found in the parlour of the house quite dead. The body was lying on its face, and blood surrounded the head. Sounds of quarrelling between Janion and his wife were heard by the neighbours the night before. One witness heard the children screaming upstairs. In the intervals between the knocking one witness heard Mr. Janion's voice, who appeared to be swearing and cursing. When he heard the noise, witness said to his wife, "That's Janion beating his wife." The inquest was adjourned. A woman and her brother-in-law are in custody in Gloucestershire on a charge of murdering the husband of the former, Thomas Taylor, by the use of poison. He died in great agony, and as poison—lead chiefly—was found in the body, it is assumed that the wife and her brother-in-law, a returned convict, poisoned him. A jury have found a verdict of wilful murder against them.

THE EXMOOR FOREST MURDER.—Our readers remember that a man named Burgess is in custody for the murder of his own child, whose body he hid. He admits the crime, but refuses to divulge the hiding-place, which has hitherto escaped detection. There is a strong opinion that the body will be ultimately found in the "Wheat Eliza," but it will be a considerable time before this can be ascertained, as the immense body of water it contains renders a satisfactory search impossible. The pumping has already commenced. The prisoner seems to exult in the difficulty in which the authorities are placed, and tells them they may do what they can.

VERDICT IN THE BRETTEL LANE COLLISION CASE.

The seventh and final meeting of the jury empanelled to inquire into the cause of death of thirteen persons, victims of a collision on the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton railway, took place on Tuesday.

No new evidence was adduced. The coroner, addressing the jury upon the general testimony of the witnesses, remarked in conclusion, that almost all the scientific evidence that had been taken came to this: that if Cook, the guard of the train that separated, had applied his brake in a proper manner, as soon as the carriages separated at the Round Oak station, he would have succeeded in stopping the train, the collision would have been avoided, and the lives of the unfortunate deceased would not have been imperilled. If they believed that Cook could have done this in the ordinary performance of his duties as guard of the train, on that occasion, and that he did not do so, then he would be guilty of manslaughter.

The following verdict was returned:—"The jury are unanimously of opinion that there must be a verdict of 'Manslaughter' against Frederick Cook. The jury, in delivering their verdict on this very important inquiry, feel that they are called upon, in the performance of their duty to the public, to pronounce their opinion as to the general management of the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway Company, derived from the evidence that has been produced before them in this investigation—namely, there is gross insubordinate conduct by the station-masters, and apparent unconcern in the higher authorities throughout—that sufficient care is not used in selecting the materials required, such as chains, shackles, &c., as to quality and workmanship—that there is irresponsibility of officials in every department of the company from the highest to the lowest—that it is the opinion of the jury that a sufficient number of servants is not employed at the various stations to insure the safety and comfort of the public." The jury also censured in the strongest terms the principle of allowing the public to travel in a second-class break-carriage when the break is exposed to the use of the passengers unprotected by any servant of the company.

Cook was then committed.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON AND ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—The first occasion upon which the extensive preparations and fittings up beneath the dome of St. Paul's will be used, will be at the primary visitations of the Bishop of London, on Wednesday, the 17th of November, when his Lordship intends to deliver his charge to the whole of the clergy of the diocese of London, assembled en masse beneath the dome; and as it is customary for the clergy to attend in full canonicals, it will be a highly imposing and impressive ceremonial. The custom heretofore has been for the Bishops of London to deliver their charges to the clergy taken in five separate divisions in the choir on five successive days. The new arrangements of the Cathedral give the Bishop of London the opportunity of escaping from this routine. Should the 17th prove a foggy November day, the thousands of jets of gas round the whispering gallery will be made use of, and the light thrown down will be very effective. The paintings in the dome have been exquisitely renovated and beautified since the Duke of Wellington's funeral. We believe the special Sunday evening services will not commence before Advent Sunday, the 28th of November, on which occasion it is likely that the opening sermon will be preached by the Bishop of London.

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD AND THE CONFESSORIAL.—The commissioners in the late Boyne Hill case have received the following letter from the Bishop of Oxford: "Gentlemen,—I have received the report of your Commission of Inquiry into the charges brought against Mr. West, and heartily accept as my own the decision at which, after a full examination of the matter, you have arrived. In thus formally adopting your decision, I wish, for the sake of my diocese at large, to add a few words on the general subject of confession. As I have already stated in writing, I hold it to be a part of the wisdom and tenderness of the Church of England, that she provides for any parishioner who in sickness shall feel his conscience troubled with any weighty matter, being moved to make special confession for his sins, and that she also provides for those who before Holy Communion cannot quiet their own consciences being invited to open their grief to the minister of God's word." In making this special and limited provision for troubled souls, I hold that the Church of England disavows any attempt on the part of her clergy to introduce a system of habitual confession, or, in order to carry out such a system, to require men and women to submit themselves to the questioning and examination of the priest. Such a system of inquiry into the secrets of hearts must, in my judgment, lead to innumerable evils. God forbid that our clergy should administer, or that our wives and daughters should be subjected to it. I am sure that any attempt to introduce it would throw grievous difficulties in the way of that free ministerial intercourse with our people which, for their sakes and for the efficiency of our ministry, it is all important to maintain open and unsuspected."

A PUBLIC MEETING of the lay inhabitants of the borough of Greenwich was held on Tuesday, to give expression to their opinion on the subject of "Auricular Confession," as now sought to be introduced into the Church of England. The practice was emphatically condemned.

ANOTHER DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.—A shocking case of death from chloroform has just taken place at the London Ophthalmic Institution. A little boy eight years of age went to the hospital to undergo an operation in his eyes. Chloroform was administered, but death very speedily ensued. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The frequent recurrence of death from this cause will, no doubt, make people hesitate in accepting the means that promises to alleviate the natural pangs of the body under surgical operations.

A FALL FROM THE GALLERY OF A THEATRE.—When the doors of the Surrey Theatre were thrown open on Monday night, there was, as usual, a great rush to every part of the house, more especially to the pit and galleries. Some unfortunate man, having obtained a front seat, was looking over the front of the gallery, when he overbalanced himself and fell head foremost into the pit. The poor fellow's head pitched with such fearful violence upon one of the seats in the pit as to split the wood asunder. We may judge, then, of the injury he himself sustained. He was taken up insensible, and carried to St. Thomas's Hospital. He died next day. At this time, no one who knew him had come forward. He was evidently a mechanic, and between thirty and forty years of age.

THE PATERNAL INSTINCT.—At North Shields a drunken man entered his dwelling where his wife was nursing a dying child. "What," he said to his affrighted wife, "is it not dead yet? Then I'll throw it out of the window." The wife shrieked and resisted, and her cries brought assistance. The blackguard, being disappointed in his atrocious attempt to destroy his child, made an attack upon the police man, but was overpowered, and, with the help of some civilians, was dragged to the police-station.

A BOILER, situated at one end of a weaving shed belonging to Mr. John Robinson, on the Hyde Road, Manchester, opposite to the city jail, burst with a loud explosion last week, killed two men, and destroyed the end of the building.

LORD DERBY is again very much indisposed with gout.

THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY have resolved to increase the strength of the Royal Marines by 5,000 men, and to form a fifth division of that corps at Pembroke Dockyard.

ALL THE CHIEFS OF THE ROTHSCHILD'S HOUSE—including members from London, Vienna, Frankfurt, and Naples—are now or were recently assembled at Paris, forming quite a congress of financial powers.

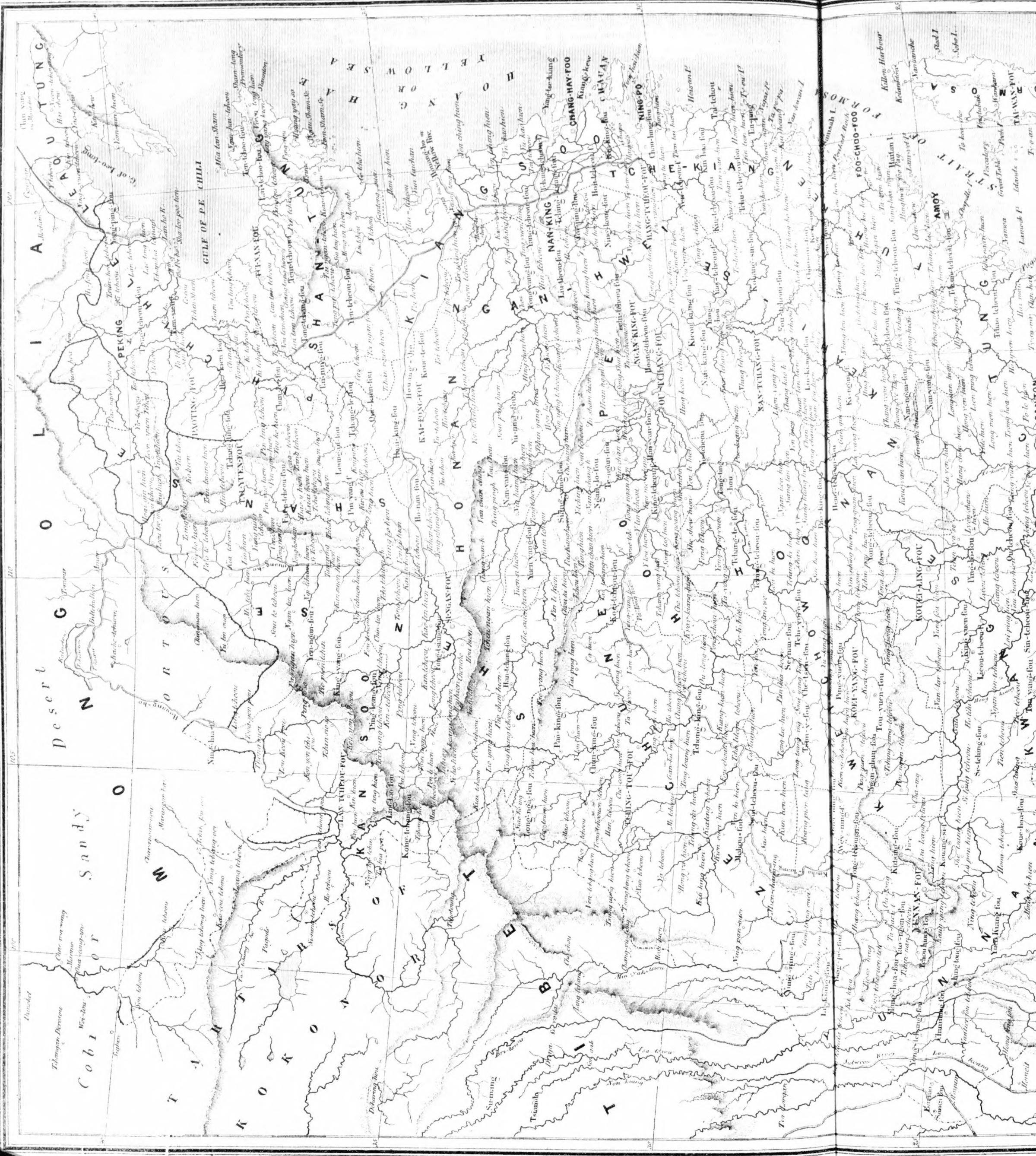
THE PARIS MEETING on the Suez Canal question is fixed for the 15th of next month. In the interval, Mr. Lanté, the representative of the company in this country, is about to revisit the various towns in which meetings were held last year. He is also charged, it is said, to obtain information respecting dredging machines and other appliances for the projected work.

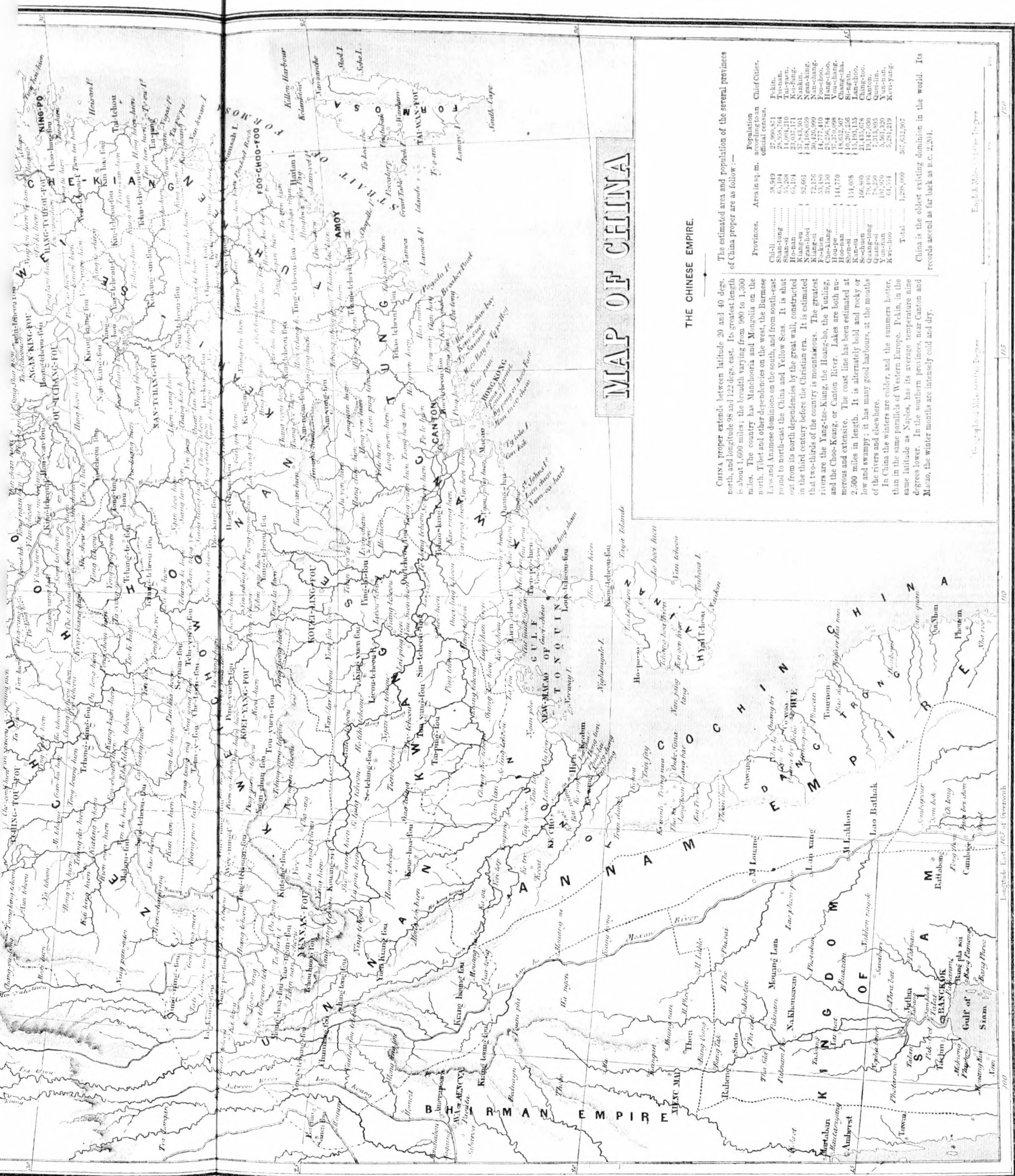
THE "MONITEUR" contains a circular which is a death warrant to a multitude of minor journals in Paris. By a return to the strict letter of the law, and contrary to a long-received practice, no newspaper not stamped will be hereafter allowed to insert advertisements.

SLAVE LABOUR IN CUBA.—Advice from Havannah state that coolies were being landed in large numbers, and a fearful mortality existed among them. A Dutch ship coming from Swatow lost two hundred and ten on the voyage; the remainder were dying at the rate of sixteen daily.

THE INDIANS OF COLUMBIA.—The Aborigines Protection Society have addressed a communication to Sir E. B. Lytton on behalf of the Indians of British Columbia. They pray that measures may be adopted to protect the Indians against the aggressive violence of the gold-diggers, especially of those who come from California, and whose inhumanity to the red men is proverbial. They also earnestly plead for the recognition of Indian rights, and strongly urge that compensation should be made for surrendering those rights. Lord Carnarvon, in reply, states that "the welfare and interest of the race have not been lost sight of in the instructions which Sir E. B. Lytton has given to the governor."

THE GREAT STEAMSHIP COMPANY.—Although the prospectus of the "Great Steamship Company, limited," is not yet formally issued, applications have already been made for 165,000 of the shares. The total capital, it will be remembered, is to consist of 330,000 shares, of £1 each. Of these it is proposed to assign 75,000 (being in the ratio of 2½ new shares of £1 for each £20 share in the old company) to the proprietors of the Eastern Steam Navigation Company. In respect of these 75,000 shares, of course, no money payment will be required. The Eastern Steam Company shareholders will also have the option of taking up the rest of the capital, and in default of their doing so the public will be offered the opportunity.





MAP OF CHINA

THE CHINESE EMPIRE.

CHINA proper extends between latitude 20 and 40 degs. north, and longitude 98 and 122 degs. east. Its greatest length is about 1,600 miles; the breadth varying from 900 to 1,300 miles. The country has Manchuria and Mongolia on the north, Tibet and other dependencies on the west, the Burmese Laos and Annamese dominions on the south, and from south-east round to north-east the China and Yellow Seas. It is shut out from its north dependencies by the great wall, constructed in the third century before the Christian era. It is estimated that two-thirds of the country is mountainous. The greatest rivers are the Yang-tze-Kiang, the Hoang-ho, the Yünling, and the Choo-Keang, or Canton River. Lakes are both numerous and extensive. The coast line has been estimated at 2,500 miles in length. It is alternately bold and rocky or low and swampy; it has many good harbours, at the mouths of the rivers and elsewhere.

In China the winters are colder, and the summers hotter, than in the same parallels of Western Europe. Peking, in the same latitude as Naples, has its average temperature nine degrees lower. In the southern provinces, near Canton and Macao, the winter months are intensely cold and dry.

Provinces.	Area in sq. m.	Population according to an official census.	Chief Cities.
Chih-li	58,949	27,990,871	Peking.
Shan-tung	63,104	28,958,764	Tai-nan.
Shan-si	53,268	14,094,210	Kai-fung.
Ho-nan	63,104	21,037,171	Nankin.
Kiang-su	92,661	37,843,501	Nankin.
Ngan-hoei	72,176	34,168,059	Nankin.
Kiang-kiang	53,480	30,426,999	Nankin.
Ho-pe	39,150	14,777,410	Foo-choo.
Shen-si	134,770	18,652,507	Yü-chang.
Shan-si	134,008	15,193,133	Si-ngan.
Kan-su	166,800	21,435,678	Lan-chow.
Se-chuen	79,466	19,147,030	Ching-toe.
Quang-tung	78,250	23,133,893	Canton.
Yün-nan	107,470	5,361,320	Yün-nan.
Kwai-chow	61,574	5,251,219	Kwei-yang.
Total	1,298,060	367,632,907	

China is the oldest existing dominion in the world. Its records ascend as far back as B.C. 2,204.

English Miles to the Inch

SIR E. LANDSEER'S RETURN FROM HAWKING.

A highly-finished Engraving of the above celebrated Work of Art was issued with the "Illustrated Times" for October 2. Size 20 inches by 14 inches. Price of the Newspaper and Plate, 4d.

THE WELCOME GUEST.

A New Illustrated Weekly Magazine for family reading, by the writers and artists of the "Illustrated Times," amusing in tone, varied in character, rich in illustration, elegant in appearance, and economical in price.

THE CHERBOURG NUMBERS OF THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

Price One Shilling.

THE NAVAL FETES AT CHERBOURG

IN THE PRESENCE OF THE QUEEN AND NAPOLEON III.

Including a Full Description of the Port of Cherbourg, and of the gigantic Works just completed by the French Emperor. Illustrated with Fifty Engravings.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1858.

COPYRIGHT LAW.

THE Brussels Congress on this subject has had a great difficulty to deal with; the question is an obscure one. Few things—indeed, nothing—is so easy as to understand what tangible property is. But when you come to a species of property which requires an effort of abstraction to seize it, the case is very different. "These are my cows," is a proposition which the meanest clown comprehends; but "these are my ideas," is beyond his capacity and out of the pale of his interest. Yet, surely, the distinction is only superficial, and property may be held in the one class of productions as in the other. Reflection going at all below the surface will show that to create a "Paradise Lost" is as clearly to create something which is *yours* as it would be to create a house. Its reproduction may be regulated by law as definitely as the reproduction of lamp-posts or obelisks, and as it involves an individual's labour, why should it not be protected by law as thoroughly as any of the commoner species of the results of labour? We cannot fancy any objection to its being protected, except on grounds which would equally avail as an argument against property in the soil. And, indeed, our ancestors meant no injustice when they failed to see this. It was a kind of property later created in Europe, and not so easy to recognise, and this rather than any injustice to writers was the cause of the long neglect of the subject. This excuse, however, does not avail for us. To us, literature has become a production only second in necessity to bread, and we are all able to see, if we choose, the cruelty which our neglect of its producers inflicts upon them.

And at home we have recognised the general truth in our legislation, and we have, to a certain extent, protected our authors. A man of letters is recognised as the owner of the results of his labour for forty-two years. This affirms the principle, and any question arising out of it is one of detail. We do not ourselves go so far as to wish that the property should be made perpetual; not that it would not be fair, for why should not the descendants of Spenser and Milton be living on their exertions (instead of having disappeared out of kin, through poverty, as they are known to have done) while scores of families, whose ancestors made meaner triumphs in their ages, are among our hereditary legislators? But we take Lord Macaulay's ground. The families of the writers would not benefit, as is supposed. Common property (much as it changes) has a more uniform value than literary property. One generation may a hundredfold increase the value of a copyright, which to its creator had been almost valueless. What, then, would happen? The copyright would be in a publisher's hands, and would enrich his descendants. The reading public would have to pay a tax for the benefit of a family which had probably won the property by a bargain meaner than a Jew's. All that we would wish in this department of literary property is an extension of the period of its existence. We assent to the decision of the Congress: let the author keep his right of publication till death, and his family or executors for half a century after that event.

When we come to the international question, we still farther agree with the Congress. There should be reciprocity between countries in the matter. Guizot should be protected in London—Carlyle in Paris; and as for translation, the present provisions appear absurd. The author has to go through minute formalities to establish his right, and then is hampered in the exercise of it. The version must be executed, for instance, within a year; though, in the nature of things, the ablest work requires a considerable time to make itself a great name in a foreign country. The compromise of the Congress on this point hardly satisfies us; we would put a translation on the same footing as an original. At present, the public is not the gainer—or only to a small degree—by piracy: a very little addition to the price of a book would pay the foreign author handsomely; the real gainer is the bookseller, who fattens upon fraud. Why not check the Paris and Leipzig system, by which English books are reproduced cheap for English travellers on the Continent? Why is a Galgani to live upon a Dickens or Thackeray? cannot the "alliance" with France do something to put a stop to that?

We are thankful for the Brussels Congress so far—insignificantly as England was represented there. But, now, why should not there be a congress at Boston, U.S., or New York? The piracy of English books in the Union is perhaps the basest piracy of modern times; though, now that we are teaching the Yankees to write, some of our own "cheap" traders are paying them out by stealing in return. We heartily wish that people could be got to see that a man's poetry or fiction is as much *his* as his molasses; that he sells it as a good thing for money, precisely as a parson gets money for preaching, or a brewer money for beer. Why is he alone to be an exile from the social system—to have his books stolen by a nation any more than his breeches? We cannot see. And we know that though to *make money* will never be the sole object of any man of letters worth his salt—that still his productiveness would be increased by securing his fair remuneration, and that the average members of any class will be made more useful citizens by having their pecuniary independence secured. To suppose that we shall ever steal as much from America as she does from us, is nonsense; they have the best in the ignoble rivalry; and the sooner it is stopped the better for the honour, and therefore the real interest, of both nations.

THE CONTRADICTION OF A POLITICAL RUMOUR is sometimes as full of interest as the rumour itself; and so the country cannot fail to be much interested when told that there is no truth whatever in the rumoured conference between Lord Derby and Lord John Russell.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has returned to town from Balmoral.

MR. CHARLES ANDERSON (the author of "Lake Ngani") who undertook to explore the Ovampo country in the direction of the river Cunene, after successfully prosecuting several hundred miles of his journey, was compelled to return, owing to the scarcity of water and the duplicity of his guides.

HOME, THE MESSENGER, figures as a lion in the Russian salons. "He wears a fantastic dress and a Scotch cap and feather, which he never takes off in any salon—there is magic in it."

AN ATTEMPT has been made to burn down Mullingar Union Workhouse.

MR. KEELEY and MISS LOUISA KEELEY will join the Lyceum company at Christmas. During the month of November, the theatre will be occupied by M. Jullien and his promenade concerts.

THE COAST OF DURHAM has never been so unproductive to fishermen as during the season just terminated.

TAMBERLIN, MADAME BOSIO, M. CALZOLARI, AND MESDAMES MEDORI AND SPERIA, have left Paris for St. Petersburg and Madrid.

SOME DOGS killed twenty-five sheep on a farm in Kilkenny a few days ago.

THE RUSSIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY is making other arrangements of the Villafraha sort. In addition to a depot in Algeria, others in Egypt and Barbary are mentioned, besides one in Greece.

A BOSTON (U.S.) PAPER states that the 69th Militia Regiment purpose visiting Ireland.

THE HEIGHTS ABOUT VALENTIA BAY are to be strongly fortified.

JONATHAN BROMPTON, a dissipated beerhouse-keeper, is in custody, at Manchester, charged with causing the death of a drunken man, by poking a stick into his eye.

THE UNION BANK at HENDERBROOK, county Columbia, was lately robbed of specie and bank-notes to the amount of 10,000 dollars. The thieves blew open the bank vault with gunpowder.

THE CONSECRATION of Archbishop Abraham to the bishopric of Wellington, and of the Rev. Mr. Hobhouse to that of Nelson, New Zealand, took place last week, at Lambeth Church.

A GIANTIC SCHEME FOR THE FORTIFICATION OF THE FRENCH COASTS has been decided upon by the Government. Havre is to be protected at a cost of £5,000,000; Oporto, 1,000,000; Dunkirk, £280,000; Dieppe, and £72,000 on Fécamp. Fortifications are also to be subsequently constructed at Boulogne and Calais.

THE "GAZETTE" notifies the appointment of Sir Henry John Leek, late Commander-in-Chief of the Indian navy, a Knight Commander of the Bath; and of Colonel Lord Mark Kerr, 13th, and Lieut.-Colonel Lowth, 86th Regiment, as Companions of the Bath.

THE BOWIEKNIFE OF THE CAPTAIN OF THE SLAVER ECHO was inscribed with these words:—"America, the land of the free and the home of the brave."

CAPTAIN FREEDY, of H.M.'s ship Agamemnon, the Hon. Frederick Bruce, and Captain Cornwallis Oldham, R.N., are appointed C.B.s.

LORD WILLIAM P. LENOX claims the credit of having "originally suggested" the tax of a penny on every railway ticket, which the Chancellor of the Exchequer is accused of intending to impose.

THREE SOLDIERS WERE FLOGGED, last week, at Chatham, for violently assaulting non-commissioned officers. All were "bad characters," one had been discharged with disgrace from two regiments. What is the use of forcibly keeping such men in the army?

THE "JOURNAL DES DEBATS" asserts, "on authority," that the cession of Villafraha was until after Sardinia had taken the precaution of ascertaining that it would not give offence to either France or England.

PRINCE LOUIS LUCIEN BONAPARTE has been visiting the Orkney Islands.

A COLLIER'S WIFE recently applied to the sexton of Ruabon Church for ever so small a piece of a human skull, for the purpose of grating it "like ginger," to be afterwards given to her daughter as a remedy against fits.

A TRIBUNAL OF VIENNA condemned a man, who was a Roman Catholic, to a fortnight's imprisonment, for having neglected to take off his hat in meeting a religious procession. In the judgment, it is said that an act of this nature would be yet more rigorously punished if it had proceeded from an individual of another creed.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT OF THE "NORD" anticipates the speedy return of Count de Putschy to London, as French Ambassador.

TWO GRAVEDIGGERS are in custody, at Stratford, for stealing metal coffins from a vault under St. John's Church.

THE MANCHESTER LETTER CARRIERS have petitioned the Postmaster-General for an increase of wages, and for partial relief from Sunday labour.

ANOTHER LETTER has been received from Captain McClintock, R.N., commanding Lady Franklin's yacht, conveying the gratifying intelligence that he has safely crossed the middle ice of Baffin Sea, and is in a fair way of successfully accomplishing the noble object of his enterprise.

THE CHEVALIER DE NEGRELLI, who is known to the British public as the opponent of Mr. Stephenson in the Suez Canal question, died at Vienna last week.

THE SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH COMPANY have issued proposals for £150,000 additional capital in paid-up shares of £10 each. The object is to lay down a cable from Hull to Emden in Hanover, and another from Hull to Tonnung in Denmark, under concessions which have been obtained from the respective governments.

THE LIQUIDATORS AND COMMITTEE OF THE WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND, have resolved to make a call of £100 per share, in addition to the call of £25 already made and partially paid. The call is made payable on the 1st of November.

THE MARIAN MOORE arrived at the Cape on the 12th of August, with her captain confined to his cabin by the crew, on account of his alleged drunken habits. The case was investigated by the Simons' Town magistrate, who considered the crew had fairly justified themselves for their conduct.

THE PACIFIC, on the Lever line, from Galway to America, made the shortest run from New York ever known—in six days four hours!

THE ARCHDUKE CHARLES LOUIS, the younger brother of the Emperor of Austria, has been so affected by the death of his wife, the young Archduchess Margaret, that, they say, he is about to retire into a convent.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE DUKE OF MALAKHOFF will be celebrated at St. Cloud on the 12th instant. His Excellency will return to London with the Duchess on the 13th or 14th of this month.

THE HEAD GAMEKEEPER AND THE UNDER-KEEPER OF LORD BLANTYRE have been very severely ill-treated by poachers, near Dumbarton; they beat the keeper into a state of insensibility, and, to prevent pursuit, tied the legs and hands of the other.

IN THE CATHEDRAL OF TROYES, last week, one hundred young girls assumed the habit of the *Seurs de Bon Secours*, and devoted themselves for life to the care of the sick.

LETTERS FROM VERONA mention the death, by suicide, of the Italian poet, Bettelloni, who, it appears, shot himself through the heart with a pistol, discharging two barrels.

THE DUCHESS OF MONTMORENCY, recently deceased, has bequeathed upwards of half a million of francs to charitable institutions.

AT THE LAST SITTING OF THE LITERARY AND ARTISTIC CONGRESS, just held at Brussels, the right of perpetual copyright in matters of art and literature was rejected by a large majority. The King was present during the sitting.

THE "MONITORE TOSCANO" announces the discovery, at Florence, of a copy of Dante Alighieri's "Divina Commedia," written in Petrarch's own hand. It further adds that the late Giacomo Leopardi's manuscripts, which were believed to be lost, have just been bought by the Grand Ducal Library.

THE FRENCH CONSUL AT TAMPICO has demanded from the French naval commander in the Gulf, protection for the French residents.

A MAN was cleaning windows in London, last week, when he slipped and fell on the spikes below, which entered his body. He died in the hospital.

DAMP AND THE SMOKE OF WAX CANDLES are said to have done considerable injury to the famous fresco of the "Last Judgment," by Michael Angelo, in the Sistine Chapel.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA has granted permission to the students of the University of Moscow to publish a collection of translations of the best German, French, and other foreign works, to be printed at the cost of the University.

THE STORING OF NORWAY, in its last session, accorded a sum of 60,000 francs for the purpose of making mineralogical researches, and for the publication of a geological map of certain districts.

A WOMAN picked up in the streets of Birmingham has died there from fever, the result of want of nourishment. She wore parish clothes, but whence she came has not yet been discovered.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE return to London and work after a month's absence and holiday is not particularly enlivening; the sky is murky, the sun dim, and the opposite houses unpleasantly near. A stiff hat is a nuisance after the easy wide-awake, and one longs for the shooting coat, the loose trousers, and the quiet pipe on the beach, as one lies at full length, lazily pitching pebbles into the rising tide. The regular London man, on returning home after his holiday, feels somewhat behind the time, too; he has to note what has transpired during his absence, what books and plays have been produced, and whether such and such members of his set are yet come back; for depend upon it, when you have but one month to call your own, the only way to enjoy it is to know nothing and nobody, to leave no address, see no newspapers, and chance whatever may happen in the world. Oh, the unspeakable bliss of that ignorance of what is going on, and of what people are saying about you! The tax-gatherer may have left his second summons, headed, in red letters, "Special notice," and threatening distraint; the bootmaker may have fixed that special day when he has always that wondrous amount to make up, and when he will call trusting that you will be able to, &c. &c.; your name may be in the second column of the outside sheet of the "Times," in connection with a warning that if you do not fetch away the horse and dog-cart left by you, three months since, at a certain livery-stable at Richmond, they will be sold to pay expenses; the man to whom you have lent moneys and done service may be satirising you under a pseudonym in his essays; the weak-stomached old author, of whom you have written the truth, may be pouring his bile over you in his own peculiar serial; the manager may be waiting for his farce, *Laura*, for her letters, Tomkins for his money, but you know nothing of all these annoyances, and so the aim at the partridges is not disturbed, the long swim is not curtailed, the pleasant rest and respite are unbroken! *Procul negotiis*, you are *beatus*, and cry "*Vogue la galère*," in serenity and contentment!

Judging by the files of daily and weekly journals which I have looked through, there never can have been so dull and dreary a month as that just passed. Sub-editorial sagacity seems to have been driven to the verge of madness to procure matter for insertion. It is not the season for the enormous gooseberry, the fall of red snow, or the shower of frogs, but the eel-swallowing boy, the extraordinary long-shot, the good sport on the moors, and the witchcraft in the nineteenth century paragraphs, seem to have been worked to the dregs. Extracts from blue-books have been given galore, and the doings of the Commission into the defalcations of the army clothiers at Weedon have been given, *verbatim*, with extraordinary accuracy. What blessings must have been invoked on Mr. Whitehouse for quarrelling with the directors of the Atlantic Telegraph Company and publishing his statements! what thanks must have been given to the Company for their refutation of these statements, and the explanation of Mr. Brett! what jubilee must have been raised by the discovery that American orators had spoken, and American papers printed, quotable nonsense on the same fertile subject! And then the iniquities of him whom the press persists in styling the "city cutler"—Johnston—(as though he were a great functionary like the city marshal, or the master cutler of Sheffield!) the speeches of Roebuck as "Tear-em," and Newdegate and Henley as the advocate of progress, the insolence of Wiseman, and the triumphs of Piccolomini, have all afforded subjects for literary and pictorial comment.

I see that the comic journalists of London—I don't mean the firm which is allowed to fill up the space between Mr. Leech's cartoons in what the penny-a-liners call "our facetious contemporary"—but the real comic journalists, the leader-writers in the "Herald," the correspondents of the "Advertiser," and the parenthetical gentleman who supplies the "Clown and Babel Talk" to the other illustrated journal, are still in great force. The last-named, especially, is becoming positively rabid with fun. In his last week's half-column he speaks of Mr. Longman, the publisher, as "Longus Homo of the Row," and of Mr. Murray as "John de Moravia of Albemarle Street;" and then he hints at the real whereabouts of a certain picture in the most tantalising manner. "You haven't got it, Lord Blank! nor you, Sir John Dash! nor you, Mr. Asterisk, of Thingummy Square! But," &c., &c. Just like the Scotch preacher, who intended framing a sermon of an hour's duration upon a discussion of what might have been the real nature of the fish that swallowed Jonah, and who, after spending ten minutes in controverting a never-broached opinion upon the impossibility of its being a minnow or a mackerel, was upset by the old woman's suggestion of "Mayhap it were a whale!" This is provoking in the highest degree. Why doesn't this writer at once pour forth the vast stores of erudition which he possesses, and relieve the public mind as to who nibbled the pen with which Pope wrote his share of the "Maple-durham Correspondence?" and let the world really know whether "Anecdote Spence's" front teeth were genuine, or only terro-metallic?

There is not much news of literature or literary men. Public opinion ratifies the dictum that Mr. Carlyle's "History of Frederick the Great" surpasses all his former works in force and excellence, marred by eccentricity of style. Those Carlylian compound-words, so wondered at and ridiculed; those exaggerated affectations of phonetic originality, are but seldom to be met with—but the honesty of purpose, the bold out-spoken truths are as apparent as ever; the dull, dim, bricks of which the history of Germany is comprised have been seized upon by the author, and faced and pointed and put together in the most artistic and charming manner, and there is scarcely any English novelist who could write a descriptive passage at once so touching, so entralling, and so true, as that in which the death of George I., on his way to Osnaburg, is narrated. The only other publication of note is Mr. Longfellow's "Courtship of Miles Standish," and that seems to me to be a sorry failure, perfectly Tupperian in its colloquialisms, its platitudes and truisms. With "Evangeline" Mr. Longfellow achieved a well-deserved success, and he has been led away by his triumph: a phrase-book strung into hexameters is not a poem. Some few of the shorter pieces at the end of the volume are pretty, but none up to the standard. Mr. Dickens's provincial tour has been a career of triumph. At Manchester, upwards of three thousand and forty persons were present to hear him read, and his success in the other large towns has been proportionately great. The last letters received from Mr. Albert Smith were dated Ceylon; he had punctually kept the dates laid down in his farewell speech until just before writing, when the bursting of one of the boilers of the engine had caused some few days delay.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES AND SERIALS.

THE magazines seem to have partaken of the general dullness of the month. The pleasantest article in "Blackwood" is called "A Plea for Shams," in which the present taste for literary dissection, for refusing to take things and persons as they seem, and for stripping off their outside covering to show how foolish or how loathsome they really are, is smartly condemned. The whole philosophy of the article, which is cleverly and kindly written, is summed up in this passage: "Let the play of life proceed. Let us lend ourselves with a good grace to its illusions; many of them are pretty and pleasant; few of them are very mischievous; at any rate, we shall gain little by looking behind the scenes. That young lady in the silk and spangles is not a real sylph: granted: but she looks very nice. Why track her home to the coarse beefsteaks and porter of her mortal supper? If the gallant before us is not all the heir whom he personates, still less is that a real devil who comes in with the red fire. We are not worse—and better—than we seem." Sir Bulwer Lytton's "What will he do with it?" would seem to be progressing in interest. I confess I gave it up after the first half-dozen chapters, finding it dull; but glancing over a page of the new instalment, I come upon such expressions as "Stay, stay, stay, partridge and madman!" cried —, his eye flashing brighter than the brand." "I understand," growled the tiger, as the slaver gathered to his lips," &c. &c.; so that surely the readers of the "London Journal" would find it highly exciting. The second part of "Light on the Hearth" confirms the impression produced by the first chapter; the

story is well but quietly told, and there is some excellent sketching of English rural scenery. The other articles are on "Animal Heat," "Ballads of Scotland and Ireland," and "Lord Clyde's Campaign '64;" there is also a poem called "The Atlantic Wedding-Ring," which is so curiously bad, that I am tempted to extract a bit.

"Then rose the Demon of the Storm,
And lashed the Vassal-sea,
Until, with desperate hands, the link
He broke, in his great agony,
Oh take the chain thou lovest so well;
I love it not, I wiss!
Take chain and ships, take men and all,
Down to thy dark abyss."

"Piper" leads off with a very bad ghost-story by Mr. White Melville, and in construction and hurried in execution; the late Mr. Richard Ford receives a short but kindly biographical notice; and the serial story "Hanworth," one of the best photographs of English society as it now exists which has been given for some time, is continued with interest; and there is an excellent paper called "Hints for Vagabonds," which, with a thorough appreciation for Rhine and Moselle scenery, displays accurate knowledge of the localities. There is also a curious paper on Sylvester's translation of Du Bartas, with extracts; and a pretty little poem by Mr. Allingham.

The "National Magazine" would seem to rely upon its illustrations which are very good—rather than its letter-press, which, with the exception of Mr. Sutherland Edwards's "Russian Sketches," and a little Tennysonian-imitated poem by Mr. Walter Thornbury, is very mediocre. The system of breaking off an article by the introduction of an illustration which has nothing to do with the subject is bad. Nothing can be more astonishing than to find a woodcut representing a "marble panel from Pistoja" in the middle of the biography of George Stephenson.

The "Englishwoman's Journal" is scarcely so good as usual, and contains no article worthy of special note.

Without less interest which from the first has characterised the "Vagabonds" is continued through the present number. It is almost impossible to lay down the book, so spirited and exciting are the scenes described. The illustrations are, as usual, admirable—remarkable not only for the fidelity with which the expression of each character is rendered, but for their strength and finish as works of art. It is delightful to find that, though we are deprived in this number of a sight of Dr. Johnson, we are introduced to an ancestor of Captain (of Penidens), who talks of the "methrapiolis," and uses all the words frequently in the mouth of his descendant.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

In October recommences the real London theatrical season! What though several of the theatres, after a week's interregnum in August, have re-opened their doors long since, they have but given *rechauffés* of old comedies, or produced new farces, which have been accepted and paid for reasons best known to the managers, but which have lain by on dusty shelves, and of whose success or failure no one save the wretched author is careful. In this dreary time the theatrical notices in the daily journals have been written by gallery-men, law-reporters, city-article-writers, penny-a-liners, anybody, people who don't know much of matters dramatic, but who ventilate wondrous opinions concerning them. In October, back come the regular critics, men whose faces are as well known to regular playgoers as the painted features of the actors themselves. Back they come, back from Continental travel, "long" "lazes" on sunny English beaches; the box-keepers recognise them with a bow and a grin, the customary suit of sable is donned, the little's vacation on the study mantel-shelf is at an end, and the old life commences anew.

Returning with the rest, I find the Pyne and Harrison company in full force at Drury Lane, with their Lyceum company playing their Lyceum opera, "The Rose of Castile," with the same accomplished musician, Mr. Alfred Mellon, as their *chef d'orchestre*, and doing, I am told, very good business. At the Haymarket, Mr. Buckstone is playing the "Rivals," and such-like legitimate comedies, "by desire," who is it that "desires" these standard old plays? and attracting the half-price by the choreographic evolutions of Perea Nena, of the twinkling feet and floating scarf. At the bottom of his bill I find a promise of a new comedy by clever Mr. Bayle Bernard; and green-room gossip tells me, in its peculiar slang, that "other novelties are in preparation"—notably the return of Mr. Charles Mathews on Monday. The Lyceum has, I hear, found a trump card in Mr. Falconer's comedy of "Extremes," the principal character of which the author has, with good judgment, ceded to Mr. Leigh Murray, and no change is likely to take place in the entertainment until the end of the season, somewhere about the middle of the month.

After a hard-earned month's holiday, Mr. Kean has re-opened the Princess's with the same pieces—"Dying for Love" and the "Merchant of Venice"—with which his season closed. But there are great treats in store for Princess's audiences. On Monday week "King John" will be revived, with Mr. and Mrs. Kean in the principal characters; Mr. Maddison Morton is hard at work on the libretto of the pantomime; "Macbeth," which has not been seen for two years, will be revived, so will Colman's gloomy drama of "The Iron Chest;" and in March shall we see what is promised as the *bonne bouche*—Shakespeare's "Henry the Fifth." It is Mr. Kean's last season as manager of the Princess's, and he is determined that it shall end in a blaze of triumph.

The only novelty hitherto produced at the Olympic has been a slight farce, by Mr. Wooller, but the little company is actively engaged in the rehearsal of a drama by Mr. Wilkie Collins, which has been for some time in the theatre, and from which the greatest results are anticipated. Mr. Collins, as all readers of modern publications are aware, is a man of most original genius, and a most conscientious author; the only drama of his which, as yet, has been publicly performed is the "Light-house," the principal character of which was sustained by Mr. Robson in a manner which, though not entirely satisfactory to the author, afforded him an opportunity of studying the capabilities and peculiarities of this marvellously-gifted artist. Mr. Collins then determined upon writing a drama in which these capabilities shall have full scope for delineation, and he, and those in his confidence, think he has succeeded. Whether they be correct or not the public will speedily ascertain; the play, under the title of the "Red Vial," is announced for first representation on Monday next, but from what I can learn, I shall not be surprised if its production were postponed for yet another week.

The building of the new Adelphi progresses but slowly, so slowly that the doors will not be opened in all probability before Boxing Night. The new theatre will be much larger than the old one, holding double the number of spectators, and from the plans it appears light, airy, and commodious. There will be a change in the company, though to what extent is uncertain. It is said that Madame Celeste will retire from the scene of her many triumphs, and there is, I fear, no doubt that Mr. Wright, one of the most originally talented and natural humourists of the day, spoilt and led into unworthy mummery by the indiscriminate applause of fools, will be incapacitated by illness from joining his old friends. His place will be supplied by Mr. J. L. Toole, a young man who, hitherto associated with "sly" companies, and never having had a really decent opportunity offered him, has by his ability and conscientious hard work, rendered himself a great favourite with the London audiences. *Appropos* of rising comedians, I have excellent accounts from Edinburgh of Mr. Joseph Robins, who is most properly going through the drudgery necessary to all commencing his arduous profession—accounts so good, that I should not be surprised if we were before long to see him well established at some recognised London theatre.

The little Strand pushes merrily along under the management of Miss Swanborough, and with the aid of Mr. Charles Selby, who has produced three pieces there within the last month, all smart and telling, and acted in them all. A burlesque by Mr. Byron, a comedy by Mr. Troughton, and a farce by Mr. Maddison Morton, are promised.

FIRE IN A COLLIERY.

THE *Wear* colliery is situated in the valley of the Wear, and close to the river, four miles from Bishop Auckland, and five from Durham. It is in the centre of a purely colliery district, the natural beauties of which, and those are very great, are almost entirely obscured by the dense smoke of pit heaps and thousands of coke ovens. Being on the "dip" of the Ferry-hill coal-field, the pit is comparatively shallow, being only 45 fathoms 1 foot 9 inches from the surface to the bottom of the seam of coal at present (i.e., till the fire) in work. So much as to the position of the colliery. Now as to its construction. There are not, as in most collieries, two principal pits or shafts, one downcast and one upcast. One shaft was made to answer the purposes of both in the following manner:—The pit—its diameter being 15 feet—was divided from bottom to top into three sections by means of wood-work or bratticing. Two of these sections were used for the passage of air down to the workings, and the third for "upcast," or foul air. Thus the furnace, by which a current is kept up, was immediately under the bratticing, and to keep this constantly moist was of course a most important matter. This upcast section of the shaft, it should be remarked, was not carried to the top, nor, indeed, more than half-way. At that point, viz., about 23 fathoms from the surface, was a mixed seam of coal and dark metal, about 1 foot 4 inches thick, and through this a drift was made for a distance of some 50 yards or more, into which the return or upcast air was conducted, and so to a staple 20 fathoms deep near the engine-house, and escaped by means of a chimney. Thus, it will be seen, the colliery had no inlet or outlet, so far as persons in the bottom were concerned, but that afforded by this one shaft. Nevertheless, the pit was a very expensive one to sink. As to her antecedents, the colliery had been in work only about three years, and had earned the reputation amongst pitmen of being "fiery." Complaint was, it is stated, made to the magistrates some time ago that she was foul, and dangerous to the men who worked in her, and it is certain that in course of sinking the gas exuding from the drift above referred to exploded and killed two men.

We now proceed to give, as concisely as possible, an account of the catastrophe which happened at this place last week. It seems that the "night shift" had gone in at two o'clock on Thursday morning, numbering from forty to seventy men and boys. With them was an overman named John Mould. This man's duties ceased at eight a.m., at which time he had completed a thorough inspection of the workings, and had arrived at the bottom of the shaft ready to be relieved by his successor. The second overman, named Thomas Kellett, arrived at the pit mouth about the same time, and was lowered. On his way down he met or saw fire in the woodwork, and reported the fact to Mould. Accordingly they sent information round the works, requesting the men to assemble at the bottom of the shaft, and, in the meantime, began themselves to ascend for the purpose of inspection. Mould rode inside the "cage" or box which holds the small coal-wagon in its ascent and descent, and Kellett sat on the outside. They had, it would appear, been drawn up a considerable distance—ten fathoms or more—when some portion of the brattice, which had been set free by the fire, fell and knocked poor Kellett from his seat, thus precipitating him to the bottom, and in all probability killing him. Mould was drawn to the top, and immediately gave an alarm, but the fire suddenly got such hold that it was impossible to render any assistance to the men below, although their cries for help could be distinctly heard. The fire very soon got hold of the "spears," or wooden arms and piston of the pumping-engine, and thus this was brought to a stand-still. The flames rushed up the pit and burnt a considerable portion of the wood-work over its mouth, and, even when this had been extinguished, the dense smoke issuing from the pit gave terrible indication of the fire that still raged below.

Mr. Armstrong, the government inspector of mines, was speedily on the spot, and united with the resident viewers, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Robson, in devising means for both extinguishing the flames and saving the lives of the men. Telegraphic messages were despatched to Durham, Hartlepool, Darlington, and elsewhere, for engines, and to Newcastle for the professional assistance of Mr. Nicholas Wood and Mr. Foster. The engines arrived in a short space of time, and pumped a great volume of water from the River Wear, which was directed to the burning timber, and also to the drift, the coal in which was found to have ignited. It was probably when the fire reached this drift that the explosion spoken of took place. Had the fire originated from an explosion in the workings, it is difficult to see how Mould could be ignorant of it, or how he could have escaped, the brattices being certainly on fire when Kellett was going down, and therefore before Mould began to ascend.

The incidents of this day were of an unvarying description, and so also of the night. Dense volumes of smoke continued to be emitted, so dense that the repeated attempts of men to get any distance down the pit were quite fruitless. Brattice cloth was put up over the pit mouth, with a view to creating an artificial current, but there was little hope that this would be of any avail, the introduction of fresh air only making the fire burn more fiercely, without relieving the poor fellows below.

Throughout Thursday night the most vigorous exertions were used to extinguish the fire, and the copious streams of water which were poured down the mouth of the shaft proved most beneficial in purifying the air. In consequence of the destruction of the brattice, the passage of air was impeded, and the first object was to restore, if possible, the ventilation of the pit. New brattice was procured with all expedition, and early on Friday morning it was placed about half way down the pit. The men who were at work in putting in the new brattice heard voices from the bottom. By half-past ten the fire was sufficiently subdued to justify a descent being made, and John Nicholson, a sinker, and Mr. Hall, viewer, volunteered to undertake this dangerous duty, and arrived safely at the bottom. Shortly afterwards, the signal was given to draw up, and Nicholson was landed at the top, with a boy, named John Emerson, in his arms. A loud cheer was raised by the spectators as the poor little fellow was deposited in the arms of a stout pitman, and conveyed towards the row of colliery houses near the pit. He appeared smiling and lively, though streaming with water, which had poured upon him in the ascent. After this, men and boys were drawn up in pairs, and the greatest alacrity was shown on the part of the men engaged in the perilous duty of bringing them to bank. At eleven o'clock, John Moore, fore-overman, and John Nelson, back-overman, descended and proceeded to explore the west part of the workings. After considerable difficulty and labour they succeeded in bringing thirteen men to the bottom of the shaft. Half an hour afterwards, Mr. Cooke, under-viewer, and two "overmen" of a neighbouring colliery, also went down, and made a complete exploration of the north and east workings. They met with eight men and boys, who were immediately sent to the top. Some of the elder men were very weak and faint, but the boys and men of robust constitutions were wonderfully cheerful. Those first brought to bank were very cold and hungry, having had nothing to eat since an early hour on Thursday morning; but those brought out afterwards were less weak and enfeebled, an ample supply of provisions, with wine and spirits, having been sent down between eleven and twelve o'clock.

At half-past four, when the last of the living (seventy-six persons in all) had been brought to daylight, a significant signal was observed to be given by Mackay, the "staitheaman." It was well understood, and the hopes which still remained among the relatives of those still in the pit were destroyed. A chain and sheets were given to the staitheaman. With these he descended. After a longer interval than usual, the signal was given; one dead body had been fastened to the staitheaman, breast to breast; the rope was raised a yard or two; another corpse was slung to the rope, and the dreadful load was drawn up. The first of the unfortunates was a fine boy, about thirteen years of age; the other was Kellett. Five times the staitheaman descended, and each time brought up two victims of this catastrophe: these were boys.

During the night of Friday, after the whole of the men had been got out, the fire blazed away in the shaft with considerable intensity, notwithstanding the engines and water-carts had unceasingly continued to pour down immense quantities of water. The fire was still burning in both sides of the drift, but the chief danger arose from what is termed

a "blower" of gas, which came out of the top seam, some six or eight feet below the drift. The rush of gas was so strong, that the water had very little effect upon it, and the great difficulty to be accomplished was to extinguish the light, and allow the gas to escape in its fluid form. With this view, various expedients were tried, but without effect. The fire continued to burn throughout the whole of Saturday, and early on Sunday morning two explosions of gas took place in the shaft. It was then resolved to try to disperse the gas by an explosion of gunpowder, and for this purpose a small cannon belonging to W. L. Wharton, Esq., was procured. After being rammed with powder to the very muzzle, a fuzee was attached, and it was let down the shaft as far as the "blower." Soon afterwards it exploded with a terrific report, which shook all the houses in the neighbourhood. The rebound snapped the heavy chain to which the cannon was attached, and it fell to the bottom of the pit. Several blasts of gunpowder were afterwards tried, and after some barrels had been expended, the light of the "blower" was extinguished about four o'clock on Sunday afternoon.

Now, when it was discovered that there was so much gas in the pit, the most careful precautions were taken to avoid an explosion, and painted boards were placed at distances of from twenty to thirty yards around the pit, containing the following inscription: "No lighted candles can pass here." Thirteen engines were at work on Sunday pouring their continuous streams of water into the pit. The engines were kept at work with the most unflinching energy. Unhappily, an impression prevailed among the men on Friday night that their bodily wants had not been sufficiently cared for by the colliery authorities, and during the night some miscreant cut the hose of one of the engines. It was almost providential that the fire was sufficiently subdued on Friday morning to enable a descent of the shaft to be made, for, had a few hours more elapsed, the whole eighty-six who were in the pit must inevitably have perished. The ventilation of the mine had been destroyed, and no fresh air could be supplied, except what was carried down by the water. Those who had congregated round the bottom of the shaft breathed freely enough; but the men in the works were nearly all found in a comatose state, and presented the appearance of having been drugged. They were perfectly incapable of assisting themselves, but were partially restored by a plentiful application of cold water. Very few, indeed, were conscious of the efforts which were being made to rescue them, for the heavy stagnant air had sent most of them off into a profound sleep, which, but for their timely rescue, would have ended in death. Those in the workings who retained possession of their senses dared not attempt to make towards the mouth of the shaft, because, being in total darkness, they were afraid of being lost in the intricacies of the mine, or getting into places where they would have been overpowered by the bad air. Those who were found dead had evidently died a painless death, having by an insensible gradation passed from sleep into eternity. All the horses and ponies in the pit of course perished.

One of the rescued colliers, named Peter Bean, says the first alarm he received respecting the fire was about ten o'clock on Thursday morning. The smoke at first came into the workings in dense volumes, and, for a time, the men believed that nothing but certain death awaited them. At this juncture, a pitman, named John Waller, closed one of the trap-doors, and wisps of straw having been procured to stop up the crevices, much of the smoke was prevented from passing into that part of the pit. All those who had an opportunity of doing so, made for the air-gate, and others took refuge in the "broken," and they thus escaped in a great measure from the noxious influence of the smoke. The men were provided with safety lamps, but at the expiration of about ten hours, all of them had burnt out, and they were left in darkness. Death, at this time, threatened them in four various shapes—viz., by fire, by water, by suffocation, and by famine. They could do nothing to help themselves, and could only patiently await the issue of the exertions which were being made to save them by their comrades at the top. Overcome by exhaustion, many went to sleep; others, less fatigued, but keenly sensible of the dangers which surrounded them, obtained short snatches of repose at intervals; some were congregated in groups, and engaged in prayer, while others were singing and joking and telling tales, in order to cheer their companions.

The opinion of Mr. Atkinson, the Government Inspector, is that the accident was due to the shaft brattice having caught fire. The workings have been examined, and notwithstanding the long suspension of all ventilation, they have been found perfectly free from gas. In every respect the colliery is uninjured, beyond the damage to the shaft itself. Immediate measures were taken for effectually repairing the injury done by the fire. At the bottom of the shaft was a furnace constantly burning, to secure ventilation. Around this furnace seventeen men collected on Thursday night for the purpose of procuring air and warmth; but they eventually became alarmed lest the fire should draw the gas from the workings, and so cause an explosion. They therefore put out the fire, and during the remainder of the time that they were imprisoned they were in utter darkness. The other men and boys were in other parts of the workings.

The Lord Bishop of Durham visited the scene of the catastrophe on Saturday, and administered spiritual consolation to those whose relations and friends had been so untimely cut off; and he also addressed a few earnest observations to those who had been rescued from so terrible a death.

The engravings, illustrating this calamity, on the following page, are from photographs taken by Messrs. Graham, of Bishop Auckland.

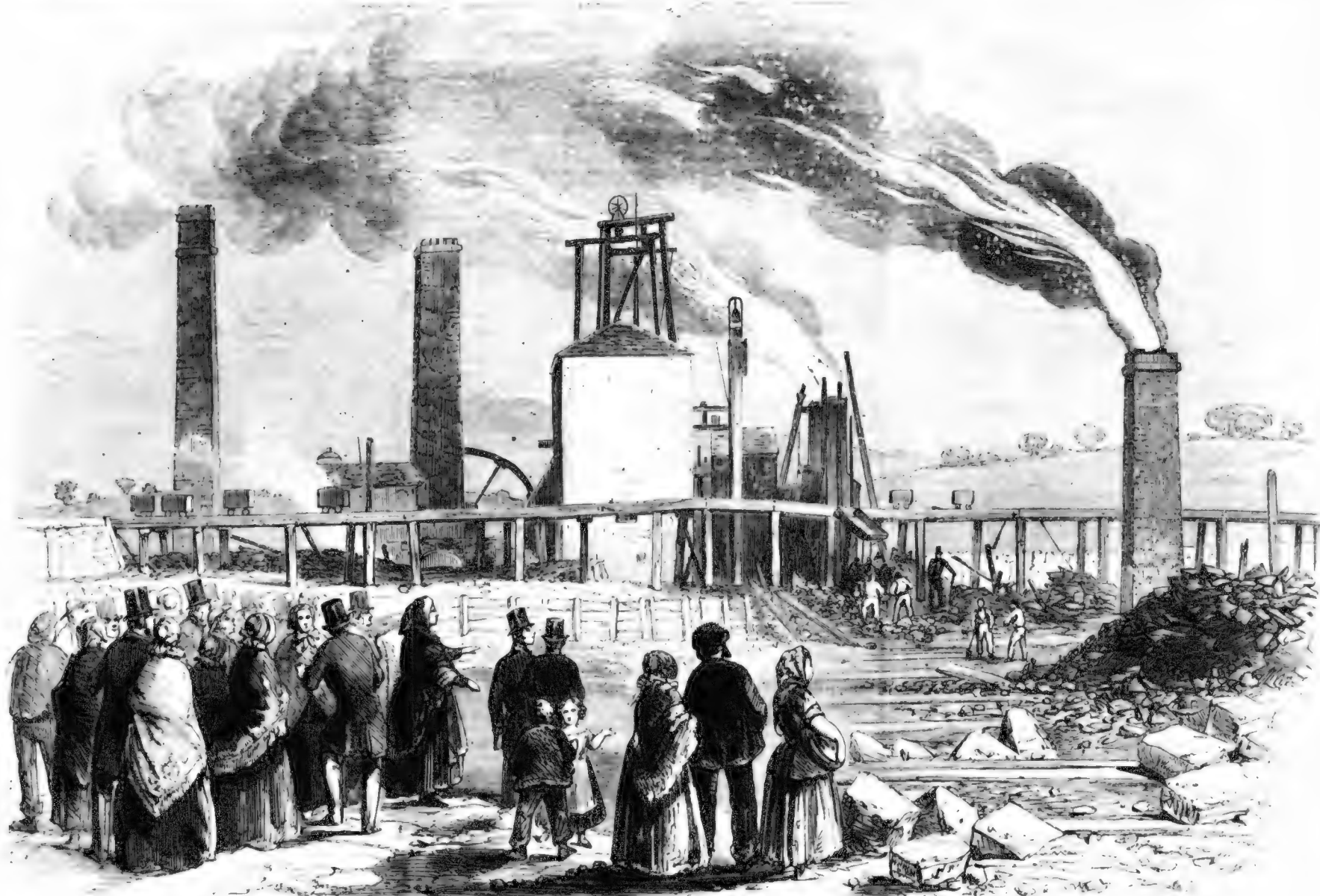
THE LOSS OF LIFE IN COAL MINES.—A blue-book containing the reports of the inspectors of coal mines during the year 1856, shows that in that year there were about 230,000 persons employed in and about the collieries of Great Britain, and about 66½ million tons of coal were raised. The loss of life by accidents was at the rate of about one person killed in each 224 employed, and one killed for each 64,751 tons of coal raised. In the year 1857 the production of coal was considerably increased in some districts, whilst in others there was a slight decrease, the total production being probably about 68 million tons. The loss of life, therefore, in 1857, is about one person killed for each 60,769 tons produced. This serious loss of life amongst persons following a perilous occupation is deserving the attention of the country at large, and imperatively demands the best efforts of the owners, agents, and workpeople.

CRUDDEN FAIR commenced on Saturday. There was a very good supply of stock, mostly sheep for fattening; but there were a large number of fat Southdowns ready for the butcher. The number of beasts for sale was not large, but there was a tolerable show of Herefords and Welsh.

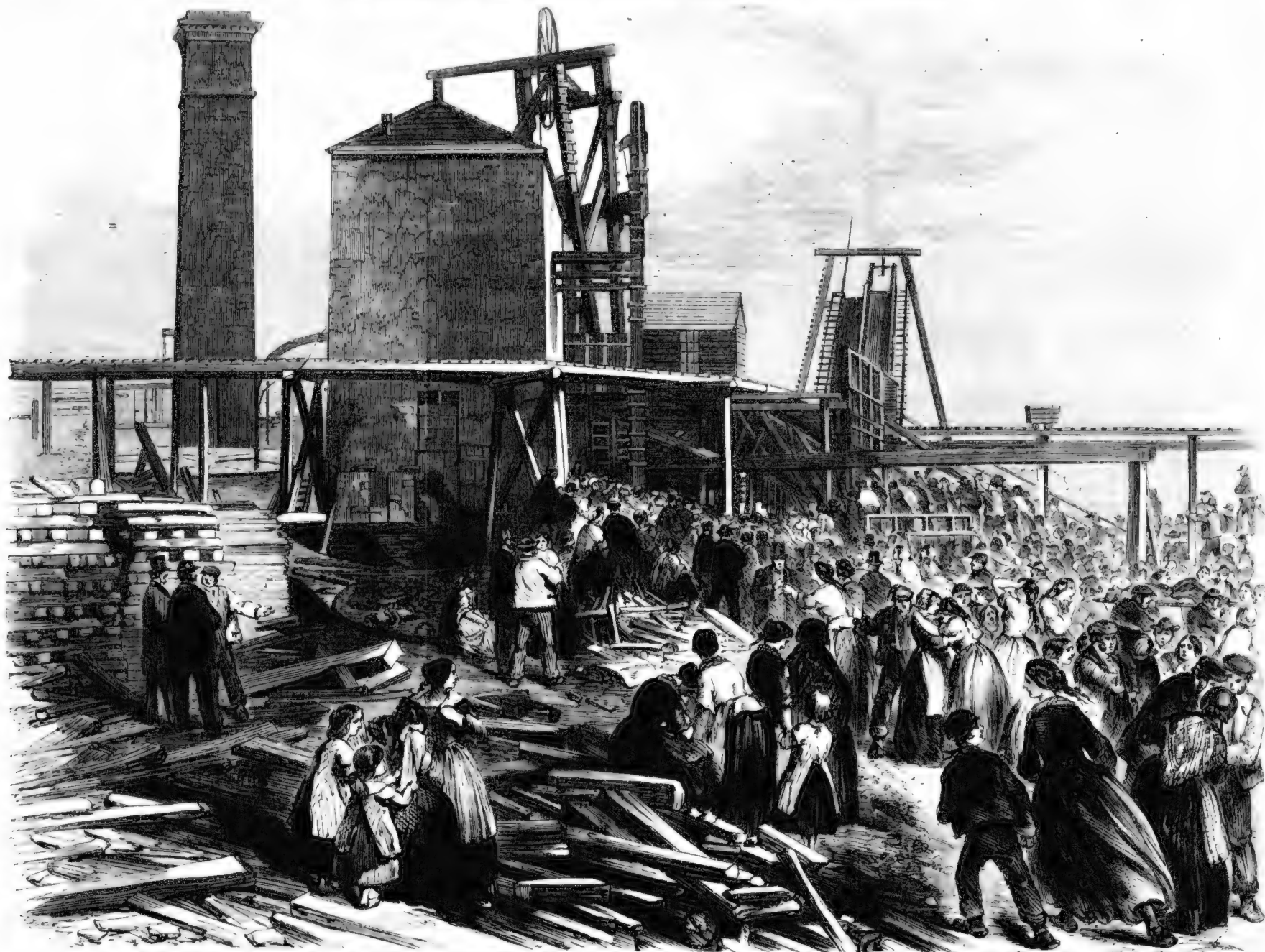
THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.—An important announcement is made in connection with the proposed confederation of British North America. An evening paper states that Lord and Lady Burry, accompanied by his Lordship's private secretary, is to go to British North America, instructed by the Colonial Office to obtain the opinion of the Legislatures and people of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, on the proposed confederation of the British North American provinces, which Mr. Cartier and two other members of the Canadian Administration are at present in this country to negotiate.

BLOWN FROM A GUN.—The 29th of September, the birthday of the Earl of Eglington, the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, is usually observed in Ardrossan by a display of flags, the firing of cannon, and other tokens of rejoicing. Last week the usual preparations were made, and about twelve o'clock the firing commenced from the Cannon Hill. A young man named Kean, a carpenter, was engaged in sending a third charge home, when another person employed at the gun incautiously lifted his finger from the touch-hole, which allowed the powder to ignite, and Kean was blown from the cannon's mouth a distance of two yards. He died about an hour after.

ATTEMPTED MURDER.—A young woman named Sarah Hare, in the service of Mr. Cuthbert, a farmer of Workop, was visited one night last week by a young man named Whitwood, and they went for a walk on Throgham Common. Here he charged her with flirting with other young men, and on her denying this, attempted to persuade her to take poison with him, proposing they should both die together. She refused, and he then threw her on the ground, kneeling upon her and holding her by one hand, while with the other he drew a knife from his pocket and cut her throat. She struggled, screaming as loudly as she could, but before she could escape he inflicted another rash on her throat and several on her hands and arms. While she ran back to her master's, Whitwood made his escape, but was apprehended on the following day. He had a large wound in his throat, which he is supposed to have inflicted with the object of destroying himself.



THE COLLIERY ACCIDENT AT PAGE BANK: THE CONFLAGRATION —(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)



THE COLLIERY ACCIDENT AT PAGE BANK: RECOVERING THE BODIES.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.)

PUBLIC DRINKING FOUNTAINS.

A GENTLEMAN of Liverpool has set afoot quite a little "movement" for the erection of drinking fountains in populous places. In 1854, Mr. C. P. Melly erected, at considerable cost, a public drinking fountain at the south end of Prince's Dock, one of the most crowded thoroughfares of Liverpool. This was an experiment, the success of which was so unequivocal, that he resolved to erect six more fountains along the north end of the dock property. His benevolence attracted the attention of the Town Council, who, from motives not difficult to comprehend, insisted on refunding him the money he had expended, and promised not only to maintain a good supply of water to those fountains already erected, but to add to their number. A year elapsed, and in that respect they did their promises; so that Mr. Melly was obliged to take up the duty.

The Melly fountains are now to be seen in every part of Liverpool; and that they are fully appreciated is shown by the fact that 60,000 persons were refreshed by them during one of the hot days of this last summer. Mr. Melly's example has been followed by others; and in many of the larger towns the people have the same luxury. In Chester, in Leicester, and in several other cities, public fountains have been established; but in London, they are still wanting. Mr. Melly, seeing how badly the city is provided, has offered to supply two of handsome design, provided anybody will undertake to erect them, and secure for them a constant supply of water.

Our illustration represents a drinking-fountain recently erected by the Rev. T. E. Clarke, at Derby, at the west-end of St. Michael's Church. A correspondent says that upwards of five hundred persons drink of its waters daily, exclusive of numbers of children from a poverty-stricken lane in the neighbourhood, who seem to have an insatiable thirst, and to find constant enjoyment in drinking from the basin, or rather the dog's trough, which is more within their reach; for it is a new feature in this fountain, that, before the water runs to waste, it passes through a shallow trough, so that thirsty dogs may slake their thirst as well as thirsty men.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE FETES AT NEW YORK.

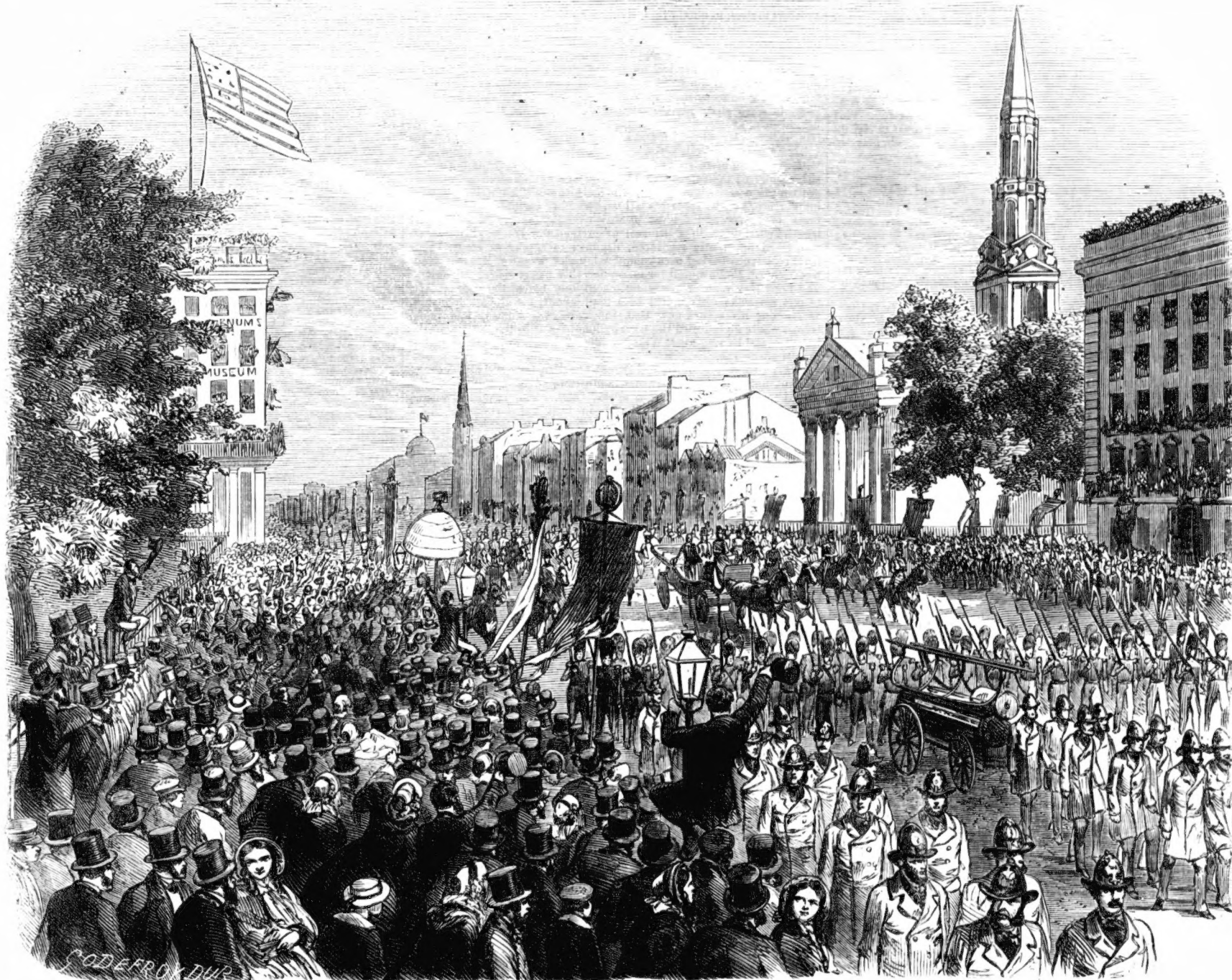
THE laying of the magic wires that were to have brought England and America within speaking distance of each other, gave our transatlantic cousins an occasion to display a little of the go-a-head excitement for which they are famous. Indeed, John Bull was stigmatised as being cynically indifferent to the *rapprochement* between himself and his offspring, which, after all, appears to be but an imperfect one, as very few words



PUBLIC DRINKING FOUNTAIN AT DERBY.

indeed have been exchanged on either side since the *rapprochement* took place. At first there was nothing but ringing of bells, firing of guns, and mutual felicitations. Every little village in the whole north and north-west had its "celebration," with the indispensable adjunct of all American festivals, "an ovation." New York, which contains the concentrated essence of the national excitability, was in a perfect state of delirium. The arrival of the *Niagara* was glorified by fireworks which half burnt the City Hall, and Cyrus Field, who was the hero of the day, had his house that night thronged by such a levee of hearty admirers as no sovereign prince has ever been able to get together. The enthusiasm was kept up by the arrival of messages from the other side and divers incidents of smaller importance. The crew of the *Niagara* walked arm-in-arm through the streets in procession, and were treated to a champagne dinner. All the quack doctors, eminent cutlers, world-renowned clothiers, and inimitable perfumers, puffed their wares under cover of the cable in some shape or other. One of them offered 500 dollars to be allowed to send a message across, next after the Queen's, offering her Majesty a bottle of wonderful scent, with an outlandish name. "Cyrus W. Field's" name was stuck up everywhere; it appeared on some pretext or other in every column of every newspaper.

The 1st of September was the day when the grand celebration came off. There was a monster procession, consisting of every dignitary in Church and State—including, of course, the fire brigade—that New York and the surrounding country could muster. The day was observed as a general holiday; all the principal streets were illuminated at night; and, in short, there has not been such an outpouring of hearty enthusiasm in New York since the day on which Washington entered it at the close of the great struggle with the mother country. In the general uproar of delight, the American share in the enterprise was naturally most prominently before the public mind, and most dwelt upon, but there was certainly no lack of recognition of the services rendered in the matter by Great Britain; and, what is better and more gratifying than all, the re-union of the two countries was dwelt upon on all sides with a rapture which four months previous could not have been thought possible. Every allusion to the bonds which ought to bind mother and daughter together, brought down thunders of applause; and so thoroughly bent did the public mind seem on drowning the recollection of all past differences, that an unlucky orator, in addressing a large audience, was hooted down for making a few very excusable allusions to revolutionary glories. Twenty years hence it will seem very droll that



FESTIVITIES AT NEW YORK TO CELEBRATE THE SUBMERSION OF THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England should take any trouble which justice did not call for to keep well with such a Power as France when such a Power as America called her "the mother country."

It is much to be regretted that these rejoicings should have been damped by the present doubtful state of the cable; and we much hope that the day is not far distant when England may, on her side, *fête* the union of the two nations.

MUSICAL AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS.

LAST Saturday, there was a concert at the Crystal Palace, for the benefit of Mr. Manns, the conductor of the Crystal Palace orchestra, and director in ordinary of the musical entertainments of that establishment. The attendance, both of vocalists and of the public, was very numerous, and the *beneficence* was loudly applauded when he made his appearance in the midst of his band. There was nothing new in the music, which was of the most varied nature, ranging from Mozart to Verdi, and including a sufficient number of English compositions.

Mr. Sims Reeves has left the Standard Theatre, and we suppose is now waiting until some other manager will offer him fifty pounds a night. It is an offer which, if we were the directors of an operatic theatre, he would very soon receive. It does not come to more than about ten pounds an air, or, to put it differently, about five shillings a bar. Certainly there are tenors who would sing for a great deal less, but they wouldn't sing so well. The letting of twenty or thirty stalls and a dozen of boxes, at fair prices, will always suffice to pay Mr. Reeves' salary; and he never sings any where without filling the entire house. By the way, if Mr. Sims Reeves ever sings at the Standard again, he owes it to himself to insist on being supported by a better orchestra. There are some vocalists who would sing to an accompaniment of tin kettles if the manager only paid them their salary punctually. It would become Mr. Sims Reeves to show that he is not one of them.

We have said that our great English tenor has temporarily retired; but his double has appeared at the Egyptian Hall. And those who like to hear Mr. Tennyson's and Mr. Balfe's "Come into the Garden, Mand" executed as only Mr. Sims Reeves—and his double—can execute it, had better attend one of the representations of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul's "Patchwork" without delay. The sham Sims Reeves, who sings so very much like the genuine one, is, indeed, Mrs. Howard Paul herself. We always knew that this lady had an admirable contralto voice, but we were not aware until last Monday night that she could, at will, transform it into a magnificent tenor. But it is not the voice alone that reminds us of Mr. Sims Reeves. We have the same tones, the same manner of phrasing; in short, the most perfect imitation of his singing that can be imagined. To imitate his bearing and gestures, is, to an accomplished actress, scarcely more difficult than to wear a coat and shirt like his, or a wig fashioned after the model of his luxuriant head of hair. But, still, there are certain peculiarities about Mr. Sims Reeves' manner which every one would not have noticed, and which Mrs. Howard Paul mimics very happily. There is one point, too, in which the copy is even better than the original. The inevitable encore is accepted with a much better grace by the sham tenor than by the real one. Various other interesting additions have been made to the "Patchwork" entertainment, which is now even more successful than it was on its first production. Mrs. Howard Paul's best character—we are speaking now of *real* characters—is still her Irish girl, sighing for her soldier and for a cup of strong tea. Mr. Paul is perhaps seen to most advantage as the American, who comes over with a letter of introduction to the Queen, addressed "Victoria, Buckingham Palace, Pimlico Way." He it is whose wife gives him tea "so weak that it can scarcely get out of the pot;" and whose child, having attained the mature age of eleven without being baptised, announces to his parents that if they cannot agree as to what his appellation shall be, he intends to "name himself and take the consequences."

Professor Wiljalba Erikell is giving his magical entertainment at the Polygraphic Hall, King William Street. By-the-bye, we observe that one of our contemporaries gravely speaks of the illustrious Wiljalba as "combining the profession of medicine and magic." This is a slight error, but why does the illustrious Wiljalba persist in styling himself (by an absurd mistranslation) "Physician to the Empress of Russia?"

THE COURT.—Should the fine weather continue, the Court will not leave Balmoral for Windsor Castle till about the 20th of the present month. The Queen and the Prince Consort visited their romantic hut at Alt na Gusach on Thursday week, and passed the night there. This hut or lodge is situated among the hills, and commands most beautiful views of the surrounding scenery. Its accommodations are very limited, and her Majesty is on these occasions attended by the smallest possible suite consistent with her personal comfort. It is rather more than an hour's ride or drive from the Castle, and is generally visited twice or thrice during the stay of the Court at Balmoral.

NEW ELECTIONS.—New writs have been issued by the Speaker, for Reigate, in the room of Sir Henry Rawlinson, Guildford in the room of Mr. Mangles, and Leominster in the room of Mr. Henry Willoughby. The Hon. Mr. Thomson and Mr. W. A. Wilkinson, the late member for Lambeth, are in the field for Reigate. Guildford will be contested by Mr. Evelyn and Mr. Onslow.

PURIFICATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE.—The City Commissioners of Sewers, acting on a report from their Medical Officer of Health, have directed their Improvement Committee to ascertain "whether any plan or plans should be tried to ventilate the sewers, and prevent the escape of noxious gases into the atmosphere; and to report thereon to this commission, with the estimated cost of the same." One of the plans submitted is that recommended by Dr. Stenhouse. Death arises from the escape of noxious gases pouring from the sewers. The remedy proposed is the extension of a discovery made by Dr. Stenhouse, who ascertained by experiment the great power of charcoal in preventing animal decomposition, and purifying a vitiated atmosphere by absorbing rapidly putrid gases. Dr. Letheby says that Dr. Stenhouse's principle of ventilation by means of charcoal has been tried successfully, both at the justice-room at Guildhall and the justice-room at the Mansion-house, and that he has himself applied a box containing thirty-six cubic inches of charcoal to the mouth of a cesspool, and found that it operated successfully and without loss of power for three months continuously, the gas escaping from the cesspool being as effectually deodorised as at first. All, then, that the commissioners have to do, according to Dr. Letheby, is to place a small pan of charcoal in the air-passages between the sewers and the atmosphere, and the purification of the air will be complete.

DEFALCATIONS IN PAROCHIAL ACCOUNTS.—At a special meeting of the Vestry of St. Pancras, a statement was made in reference to the defalcation of the parochial funds, the disclosures that had already taken place exhibiting at least in one instance defalcations to a considerable amount. The collectors had their books taken from them, and they were entirely suspended from performing their duties until the affair had been investigated. Out of the eight collectors, six were exonerated from any serious error in their accounts, but in the case of the other two, one had been detected in defalcations to the amount of £248, and the other was backward in his accounts to the amount of about £200, but he made up the deficiency by the period allowed upon the vestry being apprised in the first place of the serious aspect of affairs. The defaulter was ordered to be dismissed, and his surties applied to to make up the loss the parish had sustained, but the committee came to no definite resolution upon the conduct of the other collector.

FIRE NEAR THE WEST INDIA DOCKS.—A great fire occurred near the West India Docks on Sunday afternoon. The property in which the misfortune commenced stood in the West India Road, Poplar, near the railway and the West India Docks. It was in the occupation of Messrs. Westrop, ship riggers, and Messrs. Bell and Wright, also riggers and ship storekeepers. The fire did great damage, and some of the railway arches were injured.

JEALOUSY.—William Smith, a plane-iron maker of Birmingham, fell in love with a young widow, named Owen. They appeared to be on very good terms, but one day last week she rejected his addresses, and declined any further intimacy. Smith was greatly enraged at this; and when next day she refused to see him, he broke out into threats against her. On Monday, however, a reconciliation seems to have taken place; they passed the evening together, and indeed he slept there that night, on a sofa. Next morning, however, the quarrel was resumed; and, following the poor woman to her bed-room, Smith cut her throat. The wounds, though very severe, are not mortal, it is thought. Smith is in custody, of course.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE case of the "Alleged Picture Frauds," of which we have already given an outline, has come to a conclusion, which the public has no resource but to accept. Mr. Alderman Wire, finding it impossible to procure the attendance of Mr. Peter, the prosecutor, has dismissed the charge. Poor Mr. Peter, whose brain appears never to have been of the strongest, has, it appears, morbid delusions, of which, perhaps, the most astounding is, that he feels himself deficient in "faith," which, for an old gentleman buying sham pictures at enormous prices of Jew dealers therein, certainly appears to be an impression savouring of insanity. This fact was duly deposed to on Saturday last by Mr. Peter's medical adviser. Mr. Metcalfe, the counsel for the prisoners, had nothing to observe upon this evidence. He had, however, something to say upon certain articles which had appeared in a "penny journal" upon this case, upon which the penny journal appeared to have made use of powerful expressions. Mr. Metcalfe complained that the penny journal had asserted that a compromise had been entered into by his clients, and had accused the legal talent on each side of complicity in such arrangement. Had this insinuation only affected himself, Mr. Metcalfe could well have afforded to treat such comments with contempt. On the other side, Mr. Sleight—dropping into the same flat conventional phraseology—"had not seen the articles: and, if he had, would have treated them with the contempt they so justly merit." Really, the effrontery of two barristers at a police-court pretending to sneer at the cheap press is somewhat amusing in its way. The talent displayed upon the penny journals, their general respectability and temperateness of tone, happen to form one of the most healthy features of the present day. An Old Bailey barrister was never such, in any day of which we ever heard. The writers, as all who read can tell, are men of abilities and acquirements, before which those required by Old Bailey lawyers sink into insignificance. Their social position is at least as respectable, and their money is earned far more pleasantly than by sitting in filthy courts, "guyed out" in ludicrous wigs, and defending rogues and vagabonds. What a far more manly spectacle is presented by a journalist recording his honest convictions, than by Messrs. Sleight and Metcalfe pretending on the one hand to conduct, and on the other to defend, a prosecution which all the world knows to have been compromised long before, in a manner, too, at which the contemptuous Mr. Sleight himself, some days ago, actually went out of his course to express his own indignation!

There are crimes of civilisation, for which any punishment that civilisation can inflict must be an anti-climax. One of this class is detailed in the sickening story of Robert Johnston, cutler and citizen, of London. It is now some time since a poor girl was rescued from attempted suicide by the captain of a steam vessel passing under the bridge whence the distracted creature leapt in her despair. She was found to have dislocated her hip, by falling against a portion of the bridge. She was taken before the Lord Mayor, and interrogated as to the cause of her fearful act. Her sister came forward on her behalf, and made such an extraordinary statement respecting their father's treatment of his family, that the father, Mr. Robert Johnston, cutler, of Gracechurch Street, received an invitation from the Lord Mayor to hear the allegations made against him. Mr. Johnston declined to attend, unless the Lord Mayor had power to compel him, an expression which Mr. Sleight, (afterwards counsel) subsequently attempted to explain as meaning something else not at all disrespectful to his Lordship. The Lord Mayor demonstrated his power, by placing the girl under the charge of the parochial authorities, and then granting a summons at their instance against Mr. Johnston, for refusing and neglecting to support his daughter. At the hearing, the girl, aged eighteen, swore distinctly to the horrible fact which had been previously disclosed, namely, that her father had in express terms directed her to go upon the streets, and her brothers to steal, to obtain their living after their mother's death. While the mother was dying, the man Johnston had been accustomed to sing outside her door. Immediately upon her death, he gave his daughter a written notice, headed "Madam," informing her that she was to be charged 5s. per week rent for her bed-room, "with the use of kitchen." Here requested in that document to be informed immediately whether these terms would be accepted, "so that, if not, I may take steps to let the room to some other party—ROBERT JOHNSTON." It was with the utmost pain, as Mr. Sleight alleged in craving mercy for this old villain, that (he Mr. Sleight) found himself connected with a case of so revolting a nature. Well, perhaps Mr. Sleight might have been connected with something more creditable—a penny journal, perhaps. Another sister appeared and corroborated the evidence where it told most hardly against the accused. Johnston, who had hitherto "maintained a stolid indifference," as the reporters tell us, here grew excited by the exclamations of horror and disgust to which the bystanders gave way. At length he fell down in a fit, real or pretended. He was carried out, and when apparently recovered, declined to appear in court. This little reluctance having been conquered, under pressure, Mr. Sleight renewed his pathetic appeal for mercy for this "gray-haired old man." The Lord Mayor, nevertheless, sentenced him, under the Vagrant Act, to one month's imprisonment with hard labour, and Robert Johnston, summoning his spirits now that the worst was known, was taken below, where he beguiled the time by inquiries as to the nature of the jail diet, and by singing "Wait for the Wagon," until the arrival of the prisoner's van.

Lewis Tucker, late of Oxford Street, jeweller, appeared at the Court of Bankruptcy on an adjourned examination. His balance-sheet displayed in debts, £1,886, and in assets, £899. The bankrupt alleged that he had been robbed of £1,294, in bank notes and gold, by a foreigner, but his relation of this circumstance did not appear to be credited. With respect to certain watches disposed of by the bankrupt, questions were asked, which drew out most unsatisfactory replies. He did not, as he said, know the people to whom he sold the articles. They were "customers who went travelling about the country, and came to town in the season." He swore that he had had one of his books, containing business entries, since the year 1855. Two witnesses were produced, who swore that the paper of which the book was composed had not been manufactured until 1857. One of them added, that in 1857 six quires of paper ruled in a peculiar manner were bought of him, by a person whom he afterwards identified as the bankrupt, and that this paper was similar to that in the bankrupt's book, which appeared to have been recently bound up in an old cover. Under these circumstances, opposition was offered by the creditors to the bankrupt's passing his examination, and the sitting Commissioner refused to allow him to pass, but accorded to him fourteen days' protection from arrest upon civil process. The examination was then adjourned *sine die*, when the bankrupt burst into tears, exclaiming: "I have been many years in business, and have not tried to defraud anybody!" The creditors' assignee replied—"If you satisfy me that you are an honest man, I will assist you; but if you are dishonest, I will have you punished." Here a young woman, wife of the bankrupt, burst out, amid sobs—"He is no thief, sir—no thief! I will not have him called a thief." The parties left the Commissioner's court only to renew their wrangling in the vestibule, and when they at length dispersed, the bankrupt was arrested upon a charge of misdemeanour, instituted by the assignee. The allegation was, that he had wilfully falsified certain entries in his books, with intent to defraud his creditors. On his road to the station, he said: "Don't bring that woman (his afflicted wife) to me—don't let her follow me about. Get a cab, and drive her to her mother's, in South Molton Street." On Tuesday, he was brought before the sitting Alderman at Guildhall, and remanded for further examination.

A fellow who, for fraudulently contracting debts, had been remanded to jail for two years, upon petitioning the Insolvent Debtor's Court, had the assurance to apply, last week, for the allowance of sixpence per day, from his detaining creditor, under a merciful statutory provision enacted for the benefit of destitute imprisoned debtors. Now, considering that the man was actually detained in prison, not for owing money, but for having committed a crime, an observer, unlearned in the law, might have imagined his application to be in opposition to the ordinary spirit of the law, as to public policy. But a rule, subject to cause being shown in opposition, was granted, nevertheless, upon the plea of his

destitution. His destitution, as will be seen, constitutes the very essence of his offence, for the less a man has, the more criminal it must be for him to run recklessly into debt. It is scarcely likely that a creditor, already swindled far beyond the limits of his own convenience, will pay for the support in jail of the rogue who has defrauded him, and in default of his so doing the fellow will be discharged. The insolvent had been opposed on behalf of more than a dozen creditors, with whom he had contracted debts under false pretences.

We may here mention a trick which has, perhaps, not yet been exposed, but which has been frequently practised, and once at least during the last few days, at the Insolvent Court. When a scoundrelly prisoner applies for his discharge, and due notice of opposition has been given by or for a creditor, the insolvent's attorney, or the managing clerk by whom the pettyfogger's business is conducted, waylays the creditor at the entrance of the Court, and tempts him, by the offer of insolvent's bill at a short date for the whole of the claim, into withdrawing from opposition. The creditor, perhaps, accepts the proffered security, Delusive bait! By a clause in the Insolvent Act, any bill given for such a purpose is absolutely void, as the pettyfogger well knows. The best course for the creditor to adopt, in such a case, is simply to strengthen his opposition by a statement of the facts to the Commissioner, who will probably know how to deal with the "sharp" practitioner.

THE FIRE AT GREENWICH.

THE inquiry into this affair being resumed, the jury took the evidence of Mrs. Roper, at the house of her father, where she lives in a very weak state. She deposed that on the morning of the fire, about two o'clock, she observed a strange smell in the room where she had been sleeping with her nurse. She remarked this circumstance to the nurse, who replied that it was only fancy. Her husband immediately came into the room, and placed her and the nurse on the roof, and subsequently returned for the infant, which was also saved. Witness knew that her husband wished to let the business, and on Tuesday before the fire a man whom she had never seen before entered, and inspected the premises. He ultimately consented to take the business, for £130, and paid her husband two sovereigns as a deposit, it being arranged that the man should take possession on the following Wednesday week, and pay the remainder of the money. Witness subsequently told her husband that, as the business was let, she wished some of the furniture to be removed; and Mrs. Cowell (witness's mother) consented to receive some articles, which were sent away daily. Witness packed up the china—dinner-service, &c.—which were sent to Mrs. Cowell's house by the servant girl. The witness was then examined with respect to pawning a number of articles of wearing apparel, and deposed she first commenced pawning last April. She then pledged goods to the amount of £2, to make up a sum due for rent. A short time before the fire, witness sent her father to pledge several articles of clothing, and similar articles were also pledged by her brother-in-law at Woolwich. She pledged a number of these articles without the knowledge of her husband.

The Coroner—It is only fair to tell you that your father (Mr. Cowell) stated that the articles he took were pawned with the knowledge of your husband. What was your motive in keeping it a secret from your husband?

Witness—Because he was unwell, and I thought it would only worry him.

Mr. Cowell, sen., father of the last witness, was afterwards re-examined, relative to pawning a portion of the property, and his evidence was, as before, highly contradictory.

A young man named John Abbot was then examined, and, in reply to questions from the Coroner, deposed that he had taken articles of clothing belonging to Mr. Roper out of pledge since the fire. This statement was then directly negatived by the production of the tickets, and it was distinctly proved that since the fire this witness had redeemed clothing pledged at a shop in Greenwich.

At this stage of the proceedings it was communicated to the jury that the directors of the Kent Fire Insurance Company had resolved to give Mr. Roper into custody; and he was accordingly apprehended and conveyed to the Greenwich police-station, with the whole of the furniture which had been removed from his premises.

The inquiry being resumed, William Gandy, of Walbrook, City, deposed that, on the Monday after the fire, he was at Greenwich, and returned to town by the train which left at 11.45 in the morning. Two gentlemen were in the same third-class carriage, and some conversation took place respecting the fire. One of the gentlemen said that he rendered assistance at the fire, and the other stated that he was in treaty with Mr. Roper for his business, and had paid a small deposit. The latter gentleman was apparently about forty years of age, and had the appearance of a respectable tradesman. Last Monday witness was at Greenwich on business, and saw the handbills calling for information as to the person who had paid Mr. Roper two sovereigns deposit. He consequently went to Mr. Ingle, and informed him as to the conversation he had heard in the railway carriage.

Mr. Sayer, corn-dealer, of Church Street, Greenwich, who had been in treaty with Mr. Roper respecting his business, then stood opposite to the witness, who, in reply to the Coroner, stated that he believed Mr. Sayer was the gentleman who spoke about the business of Mr. Roper in the carriage.

It must be observed that Mr. Sayer is not the person from whom Mr. Roper states he received two sovereigns deposit. (We see it reported that this man has at length come forward—by letter, dated from Luton, in Bedfordshire.)

Evidence was then given as to the pawning of various articles of wearing apparel and plate, the property of Mr. Roper; and the inquiry was again adjourned.

POLICE.

THE MAYOR OF MELBOURNE.—Mr. Selfe announced the receipt of two letters in relation to the application of a woman named Margaret Hall. Mrs. Hall is the daughter of an aged woman named Smith, and stated that her brother, John Thomas Smith, who was educated in a Sunday-school in the neighbourhood of Stratford, left England about sixteen years ago, and settled in Australia, and that she heard no more of him until about three weeks ago, when the Mayor of Melbourne, who called himself John Thomas Smith, waited upon her, announced himself as her long-lost brother, kissed his niece, her daughter, and invited her to Morley's Hotel, to which place she proceeded next day, with her eldest daughter, son, and mother. She saw the mayor and his secretary, and her mother was asked if she could recognise the features of the mayor as her son. The old woman replied that she could not recognise a single feature, and he then dismissed them with a contribution of two guineas for the Merchant Seaman's Orphan Asylum, and a sovereign for the boy, who is being educated in that institution.

Mrs. Hall expressed a belief that the Mayor of Melbourne was her brother, and that, finding her and her mother very needy, had repudiated them. If he was not her brother he had no right to kiss her youngest daughter and attempt to kiss her eldest daughter in Morley's Hotel.

Mr. Selfe thought there was no great harm in a gentleman kissing a pretty girl if she was willing, and said he would write to the Mayor of Melbourne, and let Mrs. Hall know the result of his inquiries.

Mr. Selfe (addressing the reporters) said, it appeared to him that Mrs. Hall was labouring under some delusion, as would appear from the letters to which he called the reporter's attention. The letter from Mr. Smith entirely repudiated the relationship, and intimated that Mrs. Hall's claim to relationship was but one of four that had reached him since his arrival, and, singularly, all the claimants are in needy circumstances. In confirmation, a declaration by the Mayor was enclosed, to the effect, that his mother was born in the colony of Melbourne, and that his father now resided there. In a postscript the Mayor added:—"Had the woman expressed any doubt, I would have placed this matter beyond question, having many of my father's relations now in Scotland."

SINGULAR OCCURRENCE.—Two young men, named Shearing and Lord, were charged with setting fire to the clothing of a mother and daughter, persons in a very humble position, under the following singular circumstances.

The women were walking up Thames-bank the other morning, when defendants invited them to ride to the new bridge in their cart. As the younger woman had a child in her arms, they accepted the offer, but had not proceeded far when both discovered themselves in flames, which, with the defendants' assistance and their own efforts, were extinguished, but not until they had burnt completely through their under-clothing. When first alarmed by the fire they saw what appeared to be a piece of paper burning in a little measure beneath them on the floor of the cart. The old lady's hands were burnt in extinguishing the fire, and she and her daughter were much grieved by the loss they had sustained by the damage done to their clothes, amounting at least to £2.

Mr. Arnold, after a rigid inquiry, in which nothing transpired to implicate the prisoners, said that had he been satisfied that this act had been done intentionally, although only meant as a joke, he would have visited it with the severest punishment of the law. Although there might be some suspicion against the defendants, the evidence did not satisfy him that they had done the mischief intentionally, and the conclusion to which he arrived was, that it was possible the fire might have been caused accidentally, by the lighted tobacco out of the men's pipes. Under the circumstances, he could not order compensation to the women, and the defendants were discharged.

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